CREATED BY LEIJI MATSUMOTO
BASED ON THE OPERA CYCLE BY RICHARD WAGNER

Der Ring des Nibelungen

SIEGFRIED

8

Leiji MATSUMOTO
松本零士

A manga series originally
inspired by
Der Ring Des Nibelungen,
an opera in four parts
composed by Richard Wagner
(1813 – 1883)

Volumes 1 – 8
translated and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the French language version
released by Kana Press

Volumes 9 – 10
re-edited and adapted
by Richard E. Mandel
from the original English release
on the old Shinchosa web site
(www.shinchosa.co.jp)

Introduction by Richard Mandel

To my knowledge, this is the first time that anyone has attempted to bring Leiji Matsumoto's *Harlock Saga* manga series to English speaking audiences. It is certainly the largest and longest manga translation project I have ever undertaken myself.

This is a first draft of my personal translation that I have used in my various Leijiverse researches. It is based on the French language version published by Kana Press in 2002. A "reverse translation," if you will. I translated it using *Power Translator* computer software, then rewrote all of the pidgin English that the computer spit back out into something an English-speaking person could actually read, understand, and enjoy. As such, it is more of an adaptation than a translation, and not very accurate in more places than most of us might care for -- but it gets the job done. I hope it suffices until someone who can speak and read the native Japanese comes along to do a more accurate rendition. Someone had to be first in doing this, and it may as well have been me.

I have taken the liberty of "streamlining" my English adaptation for the sake of those readers not familiar with the Leijiverse in general and the mythos behind this story. Whole chapters of dialogue have been rewritten as a result, and a dozen or so graphic panels which I believe are incorrect have been altered or replaced with alternate ones. Hopefully these editorial changes on my part will help clear up some of the confusion experienced by earlier readers of this work, who got to experience it in the original Japanese. I apologize in advance for any errors or mistakes I might have made during this process.

Siegfried

Ring 53 : To Name a Truth

THE EVIL DARKNESS THAT WAS THE CRUISER PHANTASMA ... THIS WAS A PROBLEM THAT GREAT HARLOCK AND HIS CREW ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW COULD NOT JUST IGNORE. FOR IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THE EVIL OF THE VESSEL ITSELF - WHICH WAS FORMIDABLE IN ITS OWN RIGHT - AS THE BEING WHO HAD CAUSED IT TO BE SENT, AND THE EVEN MORE TERRIFYING EVIL THAT IT REPRESENTED. THUS BEGAN A FATED MOMENT IN TIME ON THE EDGE OF THE GALACTIC RIM -- ONE THAT WOULD SHAPE FUTURE DESTINY.

TWO? ONE MIGHT BE ALBERICH, BUT WHO'S THE OTHER?

ONE'S A STARSHIP, THE OTHER'S A SMALL CRAFT. BOTH ARE COMING FROM OUR SIDE OF THE RIM.

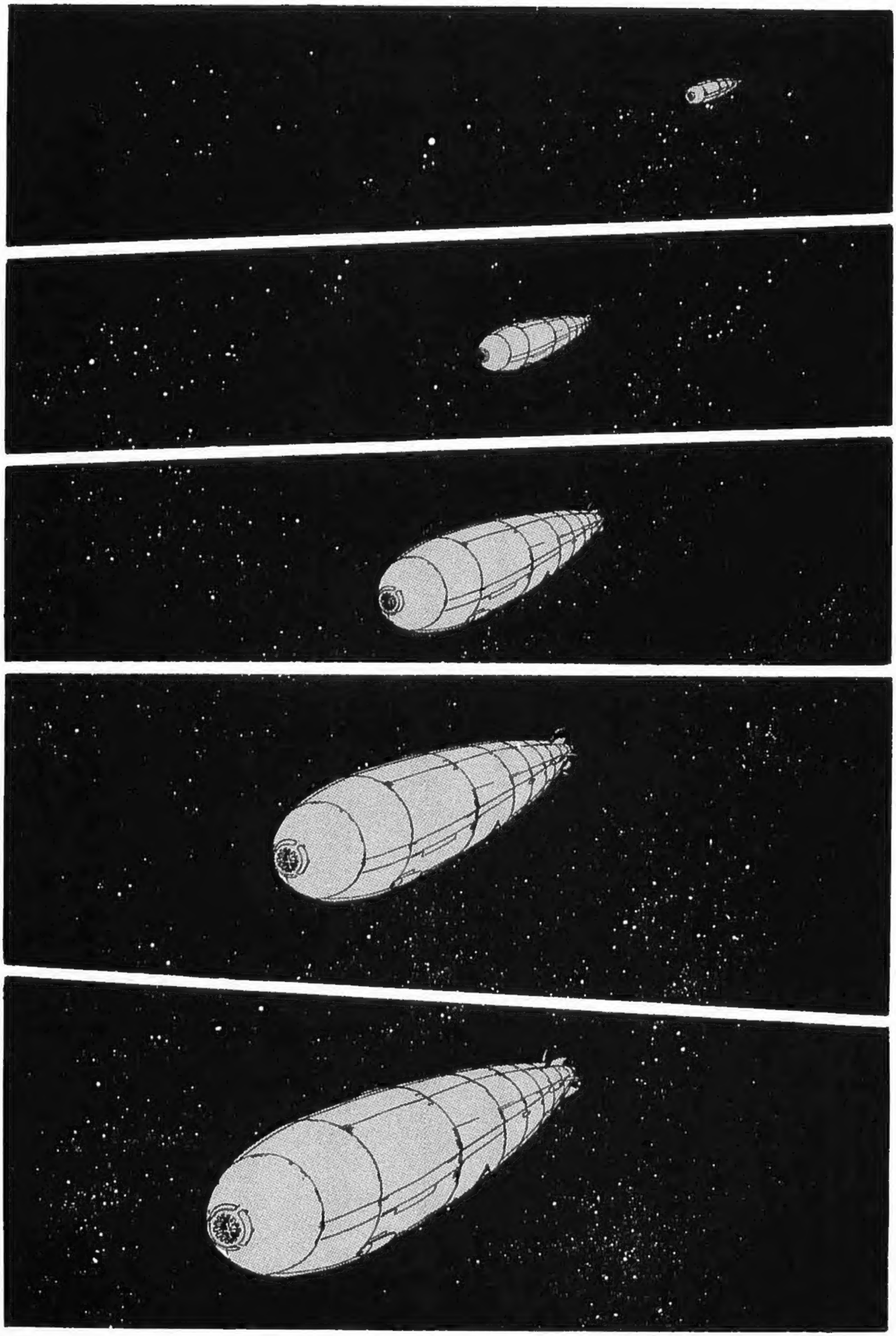
... AND IF OUR SITUATION WASN'T BAD ENOUGH ALREADY, I'VE JUST PICKED UP TWO MORE CRAFT HEADING IN THIS DIRECTION.

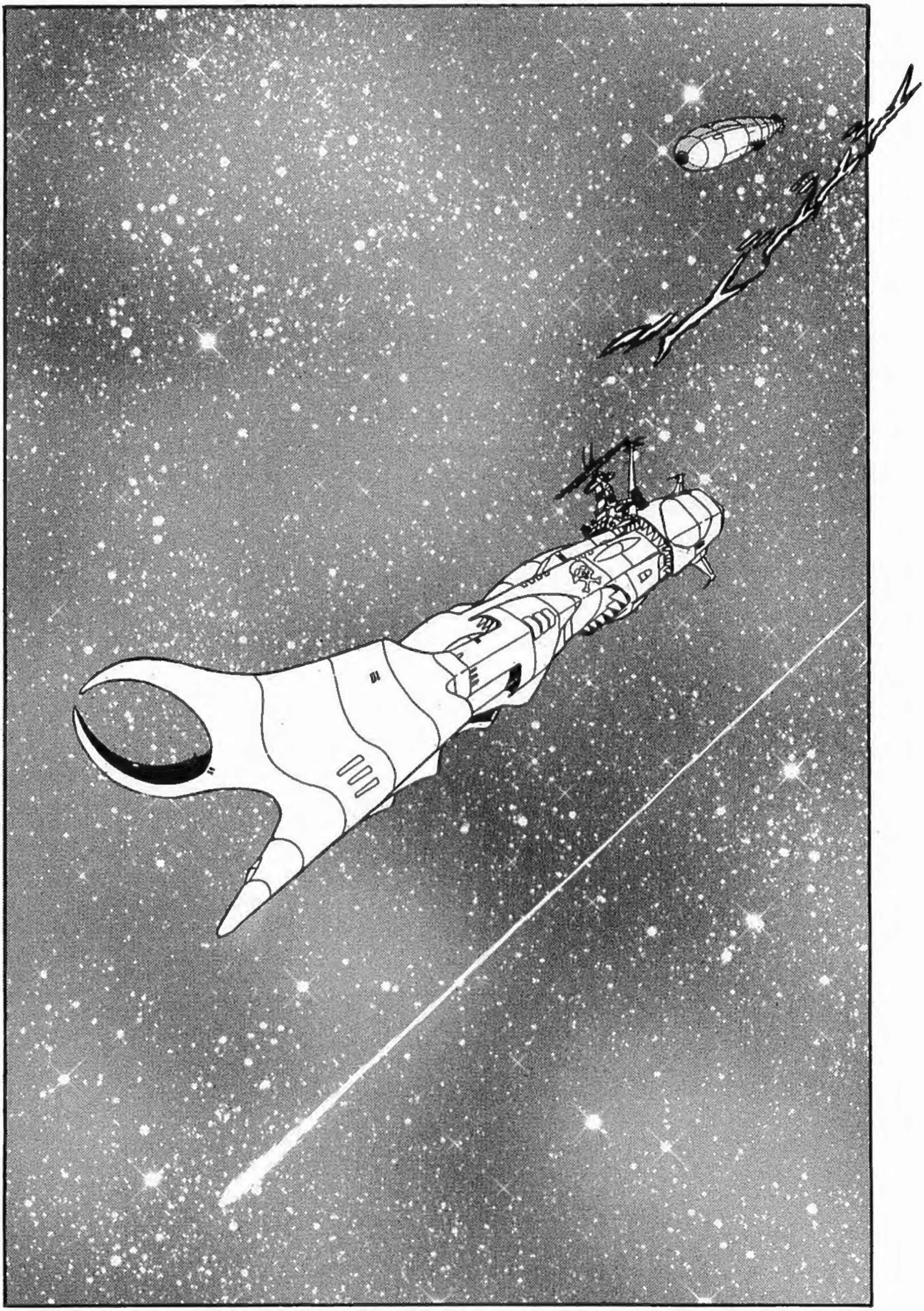
BRUNHILDE AND THE KIDS.

I DON'T THINK IT'S ALBERICH. AS A MATTER OF FACT, DON'T THE ENERGY SIGNATURES LOOK FAMILIAR? THE QUEEN EMERALDAS AND A VALKYRIAN FIGHTER.

HEY, DON'T KNOCK IT. IF MY BOY FINALLY GOT THAT OLD SHIP REPAIRED, WE COULD MOST CERTAINLY USE ITS HELP -- AND BRUNHILDE'S ABILITIES, WELL, WILL COME IN MOST HANDY.

DAMN.





I'M ALSO WILLING TO BET A BOTTLE OF BRANDY THAT HE'S GOT AT LEAST PART OF ITS WEAPONS AND SHIELDS BACK ONLINE, TOO.

IT'S CATCHING UP FAST WITH US! MY BOY MUST HAVE FINISHED HIS WORK!!

DON'T FORGET. THEY'RE A LOT OLDER THAN THEY LOOK.

AND THOSE GIRLS? DON'T TELL ME THEY CAME, TOO.

THEY'RE NOT STUPID. THEY KNOW WHAT A REAL FIGHT IS ALL ABOUT. THEY'VE COME TO HELP.

SHE MAY KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS THING THAN ANY OF US.

SHE LEFT HER SISTERS BEHIND TO GUARD FREYA.

AND THERE'S BRUNHILDE, JUST LIKE I SAID!

THE DARK VESSEL BEFORE YOU IS KNOWN AS THE CRUISER PHANTASMA BY MY PEOPLE.

GREETINGS, GREAT HARLOCK! AND DOCTOR OYAMA! I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU.

I HAVE ALREADY WARNED THE SHIP THAT IS CATCHING UP WITH YOU. BE ON YOUR GUARD, HARLOCK!

IT IS QUITE THE FOE! DO NOT ATTACK IT OUTRIGHT!

WHAT ARE ITS WEAK POINTS? MOST OF ALL, WHO'S FLYING THAT THING?

BRUNHILDE, TELL US ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT SHIP, PLEASE. IF WE'RE GOING TO DEFEAT THE PHANTASMA, WE'VE GOT TO KNOW WHERE TO ATTACK!

AND NEITHER HAGEN NOR HIS METANOID CREW WILL HARM THE DAUGHTER OF WOTAN.

DO NOT WORRY. I WILL TAKE A CLOSE LOOK. THIS VESSEL IS PROTECTED FROM ITS DARKNESS ...

HE'S IN CHARGE OF THAT THING?!!

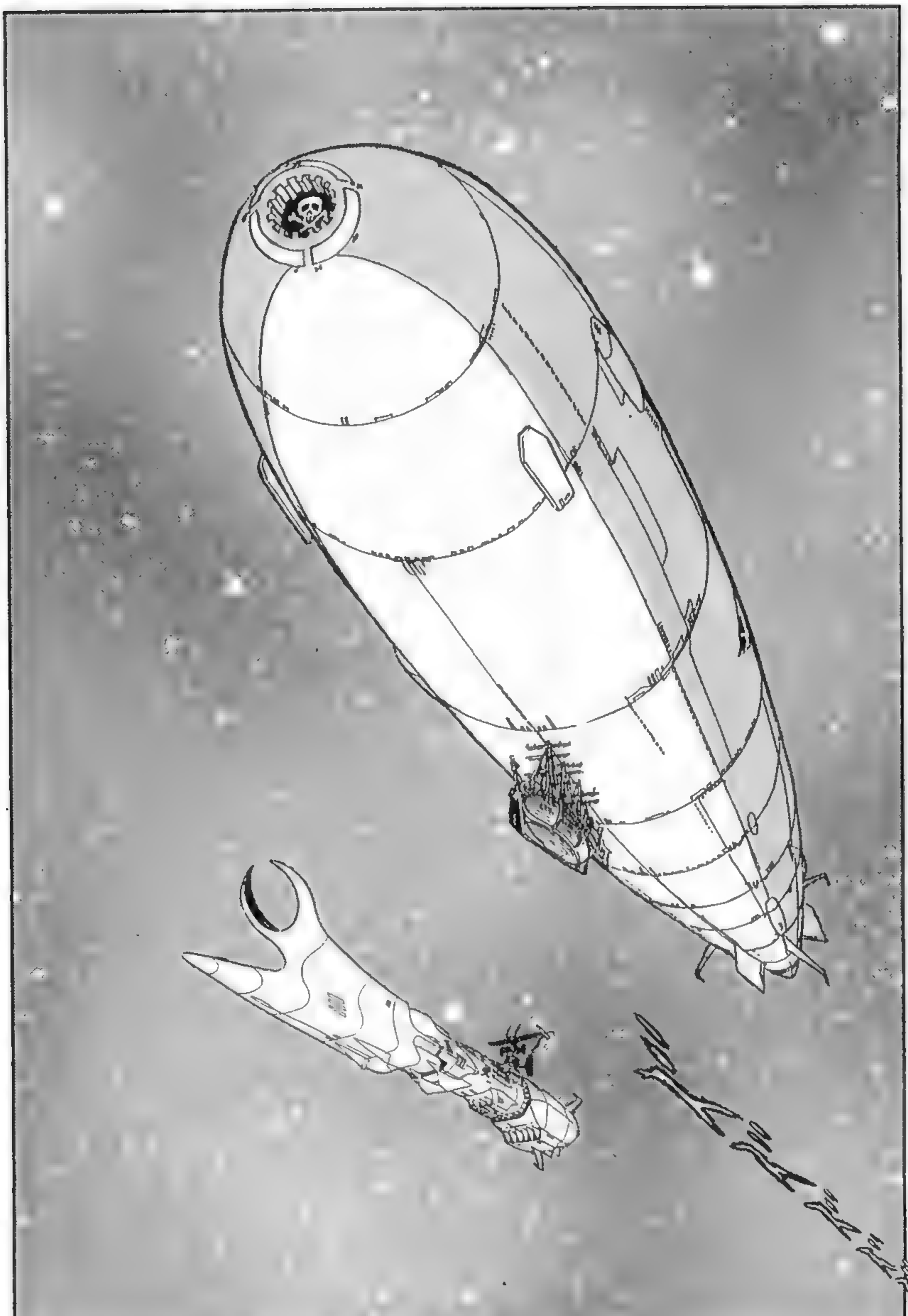
HAGEN?! AS IN THE SON OF ALBERICH?!

... AND I WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH IT.

YES. THAT HAGEN. IT IS A LONG STORY INVOLVING THE RELATIONSHIPS AND POLITICS OF VALHALLA ...

THAT SHROUD OF DARKNESS FLEES FROM HER SHIP LIKE IT WAS A THING ALIVE AND SCARED!

I SEE IT, BUT IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE.



I AGREE ... BUT IT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THEIR CHOICE.

WHY'D THEY GO AND PAINT THEIR SHIP GOLD?! IT LOOKS UGLY! IT WAS JUST FINE AS IT WAS!

I DO INDEED, MISTRESS.

QUEEN EMERALDAS, DO YOU KNOW THE REASON FOR THIS?

AH! ITS BLOODSTAINS FROM THEIR FALLEN FOE! THAT I CAN UNDERSTAND!

REMEMBER THAT TYRANOVULCAN SHIP THEY BLEW UP? I THINK THE GOLD COLOR CAME FROM THAT.

THEIR SHIP HAS BEEN BATHED IN THE BLOOD OF THE FIRE DRAGON ...

... AND IT CANNOT NOW BE HARMED BY ANY ATTACK.

INTERESTING.

FURTHERMORE ...

HUH?

YES? WHAT IS IT?

I SHOULD FEEL ALL RIGHT -- ESPECIALLY SINCE YOUNG TOCHRIO FOUND WHAT MAY HAVE CAUSED MY PROBLEMS.

I AM UNEASY, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHY.

NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM WAS, AND WHERE IT WAS LOCATED, I CAN SEE WHY I WAS UNABLE TO FIND IT.

I FEEL LIKE ONE WHO HAS HAD A BAD HEADACHE, WHOSE HEAD SUDDENLY CLEARS ....

JEEZ ... IT MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE CHINESE WATER TORTURE ... KNOWING SOMETHING WAS WRONG BUT UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU'VE HAD A HEADACHE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS?

KINDA LIKE POWER LINES ON EARTH IN THE OLD DAYS. ONE CURIOUS SQUIRREL AT THE RIGHT SPOT COULD DARKEN A WHOLE CITY.

ALL THAT ADVANCED SOPHISTICATION, ALL THAT COMPLEX ENGINEERING, AND AT THE END PLAGUED BY A SIMPLE LITTLE PROBLEM ...

... THE MOST CURIOUS ANIMAL OF ALL!!!

AND THE CULPRIT IN THIS CASE HAPPENS TO BE ...

A CAT!

AHH, NANIKA!* SO THAT IS WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU! I THOUGHT YOU HAD LEFT ME TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN.

HERE'S YOUR HEADACHE, QUEEN EMERALDAS!!!

(*) - NANIKA, THE RED-COATED TIME-TRAVELING CAT, APPEARS IN THE BACKGROUND IN SEVERAL TALES OF THE LEIJIVERSE. THIS IS THE ONLY TALE TO GIVE HER NAME.

THE FACT THAT SHE WAS TRAPPED INSIDE THE TEMPORAL MATRIX CHAMBER OF THE *QUEEN EMERALDAS* FOR AT LEAST A THOUSAND YEARS EXPLAINS THIS SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE ABILITY.

NANIKA WAS THE BELOVED MASCOT OF MY LAST PILOT BEFORE YOU FOUND ME, EMERALDAS. SHE IS CURIOUS, BUT LOYAL, LIKE ALL HER KIND ...

WE THOUGHT NANKIA HAD LEFT THE SHIP AT OUR FINAL DESTINATION, BUT NOW IT SEEMS THAT THIS WAS NOT SO.

NANIKA'S CURIOSITY HAS CAUSED HER TO WALK THE PATHS OF TIME DURING MY SLUMBER ... OH, YOU POOR THING!

PURR PURR

SO CATS ARE AS OLD AS THE UNIVERSE .... MAYBE THAT'S WHY IT'S SO SCREWED UP.

YOU'RE THE LAST SURVIVOR OF THE BEINGS WHO BUILT THIS SHIP, GIRL! WE GOTTA TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU!

HEY THERE, NANIKA! YOU LOOK PRETTY DAMN GOOD FOR A THOUSAND YEAR OLD CAT!

THANK YOU, TOCHIRO, FOR CARING FOR NANIKA.

WHO KNOWS? HARLOCK AND I MIGHT HAVE OUR OWN MASCOTS ON OUR OWN SHIP SOMEDAY! IT'S A PROBLEM TO CONSIDER.

NO, THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR GOADING ME INTO TRACKING DOWN THE SOLUTION TO A MOST UNUSUAL PROBLEM.

IT IS GOOD THAT WE CAN BE FRIENDS LIKE THIS. IT IS GOOD THAT YOU HAVE NOW FOUND THE MAIN PROBLEM THAT PLAGUED MY SYSTEMS.

BLESS ME, TOCHIRO! YOU HAVE QUITE THE SENSE OF HUMOR.

... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A THOUSAND YEARS! I WILL SOON BE READY TO JOIN BATTLE ON THE SIDE OF GREAT HARLOCK!!!

I CAN FEEL MYSELF RETURNING TO NORMAL FUNCTION ...

WELL, I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO THIS THE HARD WAY.

BRUNHILDE'S LEAVING THE PHANTASMA. I GUESS HER TALK WITH HAGEN DIDN'T GO WELL.

HEARD ANY WORD FROM THE BOYS ON THE STATUS OF THE OLD SHIP? IN WHAT SHAPE IS SHE?

I WISH I HAD AN OPTION OTHER THAN A HEAD-ON ATTACK, BUT RIGHT NOW THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT TO GO WITH.

TOCHIRO SAYS HE'S ONLY JUST NOW GOT HER BACK UP TO FULL POWER - BUT SHE'S ALREADY GOT FULL SHIELDS AND HER MAIN BATTERY ON LINE.

... YOU'RE OUR BACKUP, UNDERSTAND? DON'T RUSH IN UNLESS IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE CLEARLY GOING TO LOSE! FINDING THE RIGHT MOMENT TO STRIKE IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE FIGHT ITSELF!

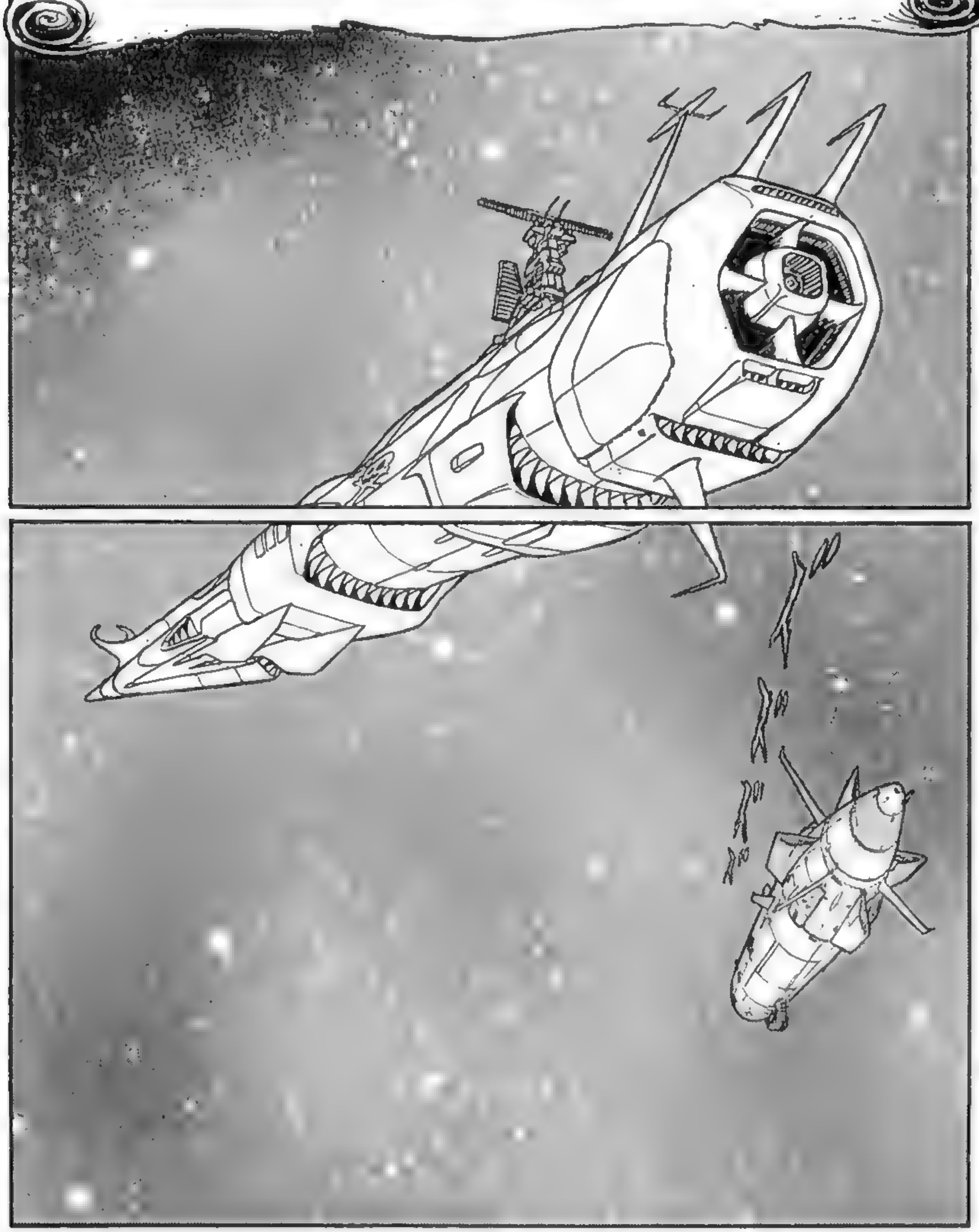
"THE DEVIL WENT DOWN TO GEORGIA,
HE WAS LOOKIN' FOR A SOUL TO STEAL."
– POPULAR HUMAN BALLAD

THERE ARE MYRIAD WAYS TO SELL ONE'S SOUL TO THE PROVERBIAL DEVIL, BUT THE FINAL COST IS ALWAYS THE SAME: ETERNITY. IT IS AS TRUE IN THE SEA OF STARS AS IT WAS IN THE PAST. YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THOSE WHO RENOUNCE MORALITY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR AMBITIONS. IN EVERY CASE, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, THOSE WHO SELL THEIR SOULS COME TO TRAGIC ENDS. WOTAN IS NO EXCEPTION ....

Siegfried

Ring 54 : Enter Hagen

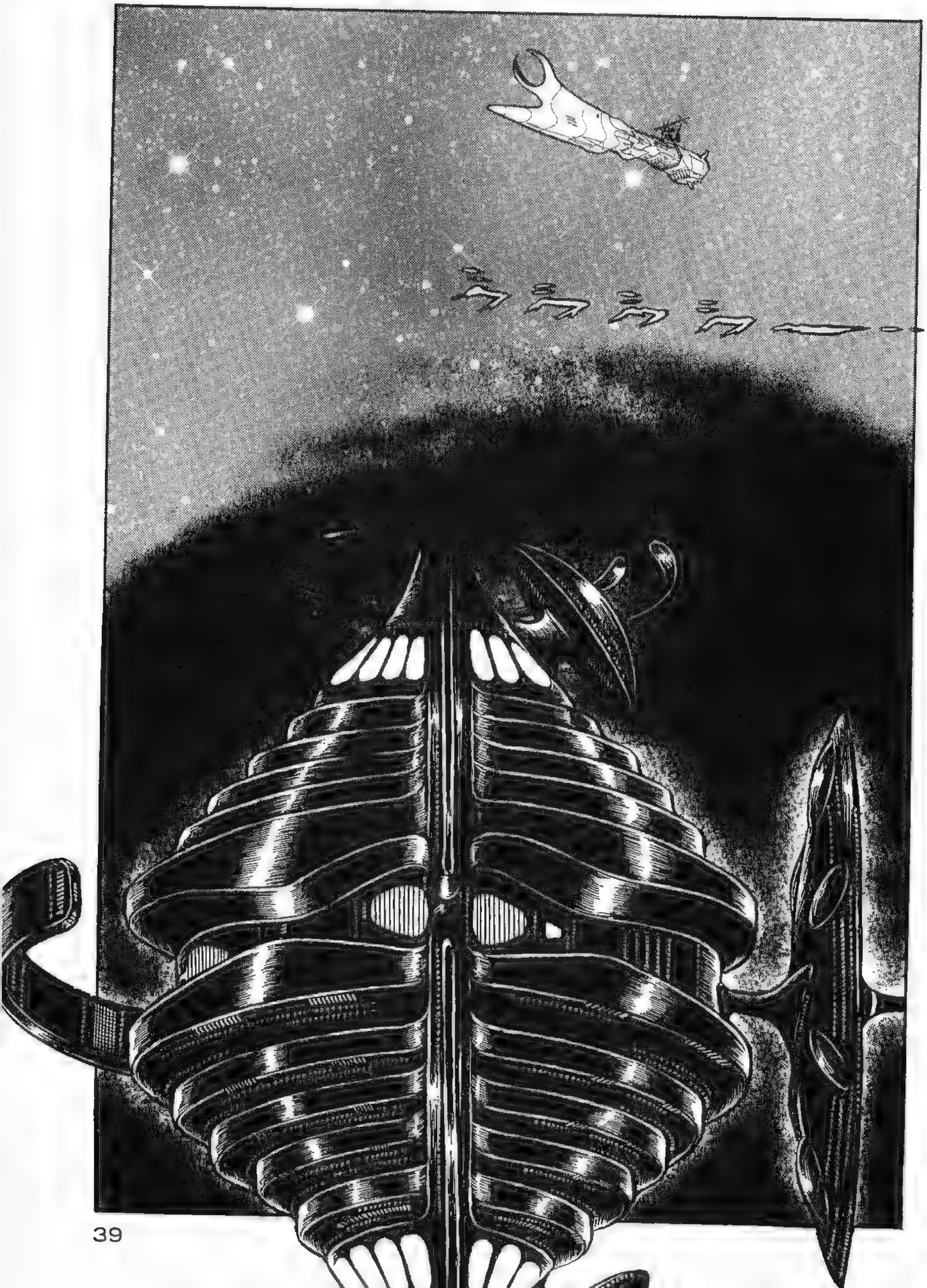
NO CREATURE ENDOWED WITH EVEN THE LEAST BIT OF INTELLIGENCE WISHES TO SEE THEIR FUTURE TURNED INTO A LIVING HELL. EVEN SO, THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE FRUSTRATED OR ANGRY ENOUGH SO THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS LEADS UNSWERVINGLY ALONG THIS PATH. FROM THE DAWN OF CREATION UNTIL THE END OF TIME, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO ... AND, SADLY, THIS TOO IS AN ATTRIBUTE OF ALL LIVING THINGS ....

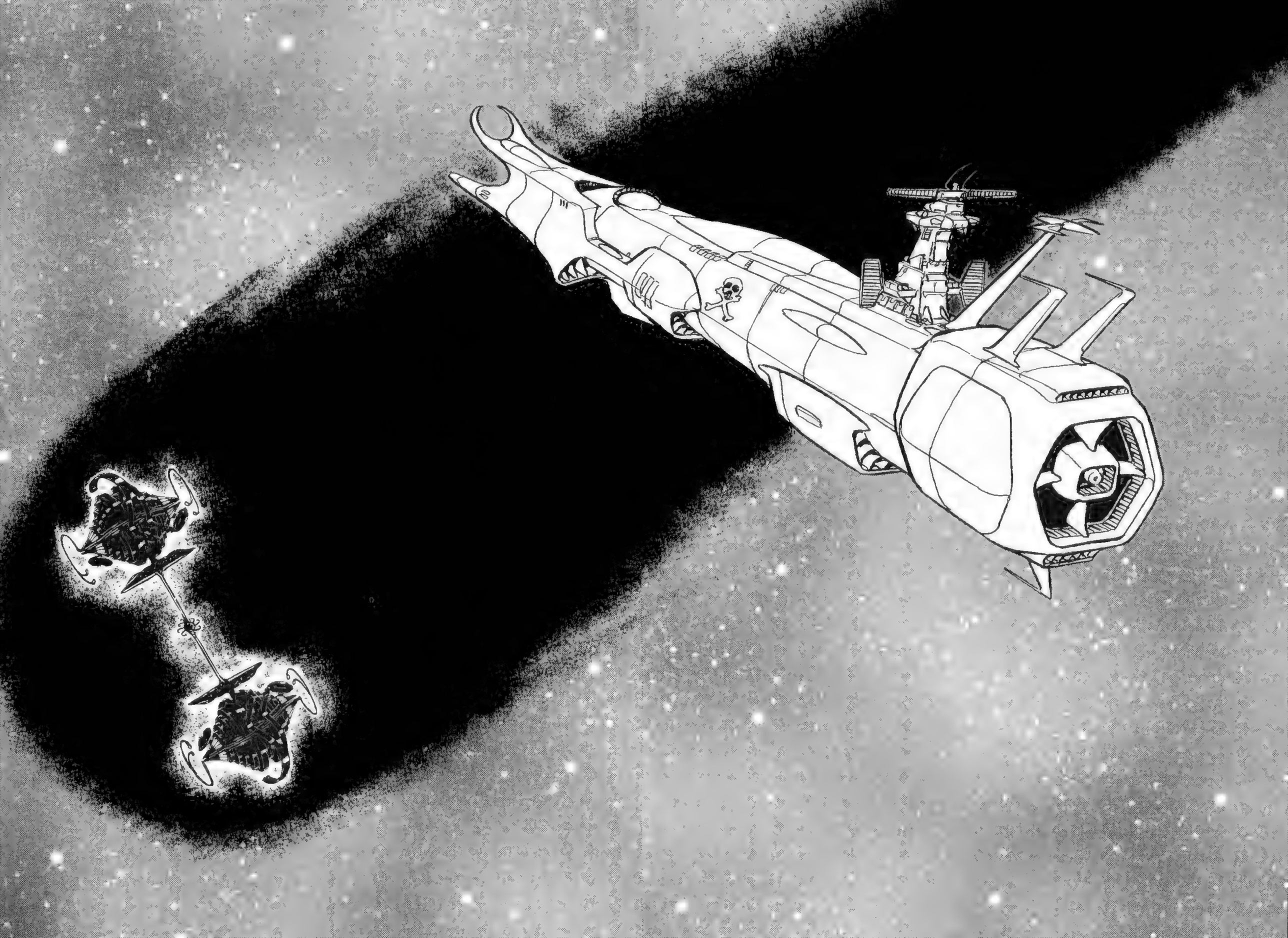


YOU SAID IT! BUT KNOWING OUR FATHERS, THEY PROBABLY WON'T NEED US. THE DEATH SHADOW IS A MIGHTY SHIP ...

I THINK THE PARTY'S ABOUT TO GET STARTED, TOCHIRO! LET'S DO IT!! LET'S BE THERE FOR OUR DADS WHEN THEY NEED US!!!

HOIST MY FLAG! THE FLAG OF FREEDOM!!!





I DON'T GET IT. SHE WAS JUST FINE WHEN I DUG HER OUT OF THE ENGINE, BUT NOW SHE'S BLUBBERING LIKE A KITTEN!

HEY, NANKIKA, WHAT'S WRONG? AWWW, BABY, DON'T CRY! YOU'RE FREE NOW!

SHE IS ONLY JUST NOW SENSING THE LOSS OF HER MISTRESS ... THE LAST OF THE PEOPLE THAT BUILT ME. SHE REMEMBERS HER, EVEN AS DO I ... AND SHE WEEPS FOR THEM ... ALL OF THEM ...

EMERALDAS ... MAETEL ... YOU BOTH KNOW HOW POOR LITTLE NANIKA FEELS RIGHT NOW ... TO BE THE LAST ONE OR ONES LEFT OF AN ANCIENT RACE THAT IS NOW NO MORE ... AND ALL THAT YOU KNEW IS GONE FOREVER ....

NANIKA'S PLIGHT REMINDS ME OF MY OWN ... AND OF THE FIRE OF VENGANCE THAT STILL BURNS WITHIN ME AGAINST VALHALLA.

SHE HAS HAD ALL OF TIME AND SPACE IN WHICH TO WANDER WHILE TRAPPED INSIDE MY TEMPORAL MATRIX ... SO SHE HAS NOT BEEN ALONE, IN A SENSE, UNTIL NOW.

... IT IS AS IF SHE HAD BEEN REBORN IN YOU.

VERY MUCH LIKE YOU IN MANY WAYS, EMERALDAS. SO MANY ... THAT WHENEVER I LOOK AT YOU ...

TELL ME, PLEASE -- WHAT WAS SHE LIKE? THE ONE WHO USED TO SIT HERE?

YOUNG HARLOCK! YOUR FATHER IS ATTEMPTING TO TAKE THE DEATH SHADOW ABOVE THE CRUISER PHANTASMA!

HOLD ON -- THAT'S BRUNHILDE'S SHIP! HE MUST BE TAKING HER BACK ON BOARD! WHY?

IF THE DEATH SHADOW ISN'T CAREFUL, IT'LL HIT THAT NULL VOID FIELD AND THAT'LL BE THAT!!!

WELCOME ABOARD ... BRUNHILDE.

ZUGZOOG

SO THAT'S WHY YOU THOUGHT HE MIGHT TALK TO YOU. HE'S YOUR STEPBROTHER.

SOUNDS LIKE WOTAN WAS A REGULAR PLAYBOY. PERHAPS THAT EXPLAINS WHY HAGEN IS TRYING TO DESTROY OUR UNIVERSE IN HIS NAME.

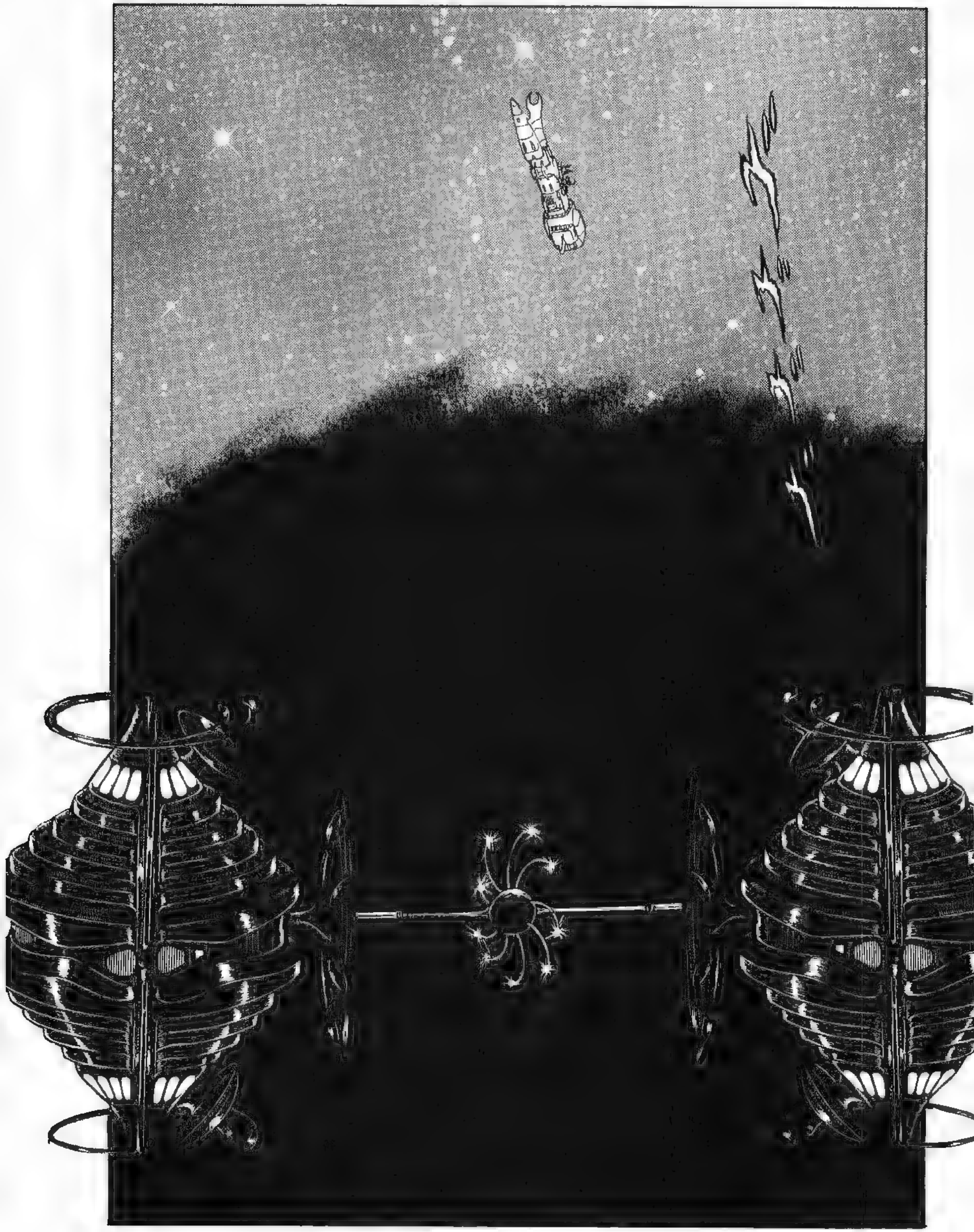
YES -- SO TO SAY. HIS MOTHER KREMHILD WAS AT ONE TIME THE CONSORT OF WOTAN -- AS WERE MANY OF THE MAIDENS OF VALHALLA BACK IN THOSE DAYS.

WOTAN MUST HAVE HOOKED HAGEN UP WITH THE METANOIDS AND THEIR DARK QUEEN AS HIS AGENT, OR THEIR WARLORD. WHAT DO YOU THINK, OYAMA?

SO, IN BRIEF, THE UNIVERSE IS BEING THREATENED BY AN OVERZEALOUS SON WITH A NUT FOR A BIOLOGICAL FATHER AND A GOD FOR A FOSTER FATHER.

WARLORD RANK OR NOT, HE'S JUST ANOTHER ONE OF WOTAN'S LITTLE BUGS SCURRYING AROUND THE PLACE -- JUST BEGGING TO GET STOMPED!

EXACTLY WHAT I WAS THINKING, HARLOCK.



YOU MIGHT SHOW MORE RESPECT TO HAGEN, OYAMA. AFTER ALL, HE MIGHT HEAR YOU.

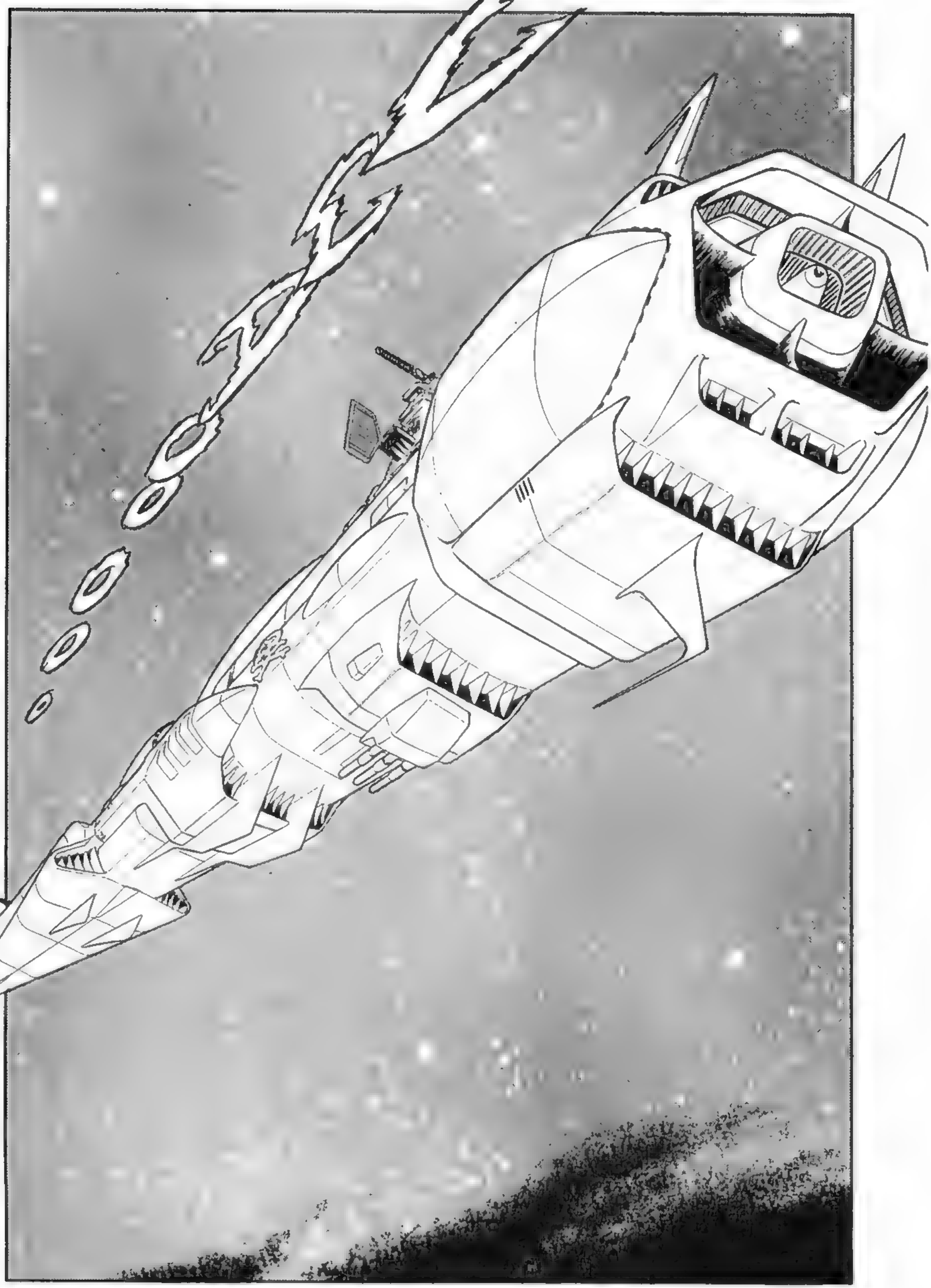
OH, HE ALREADY HAS! AND YOU KNOW WHAT?! I DON'T GIVE A SHIT!! HEAR THAT, DICKWAD?!!

CAREFUL, TOCHIRO. YOU MIGHT MAKE HIM ANGRY.

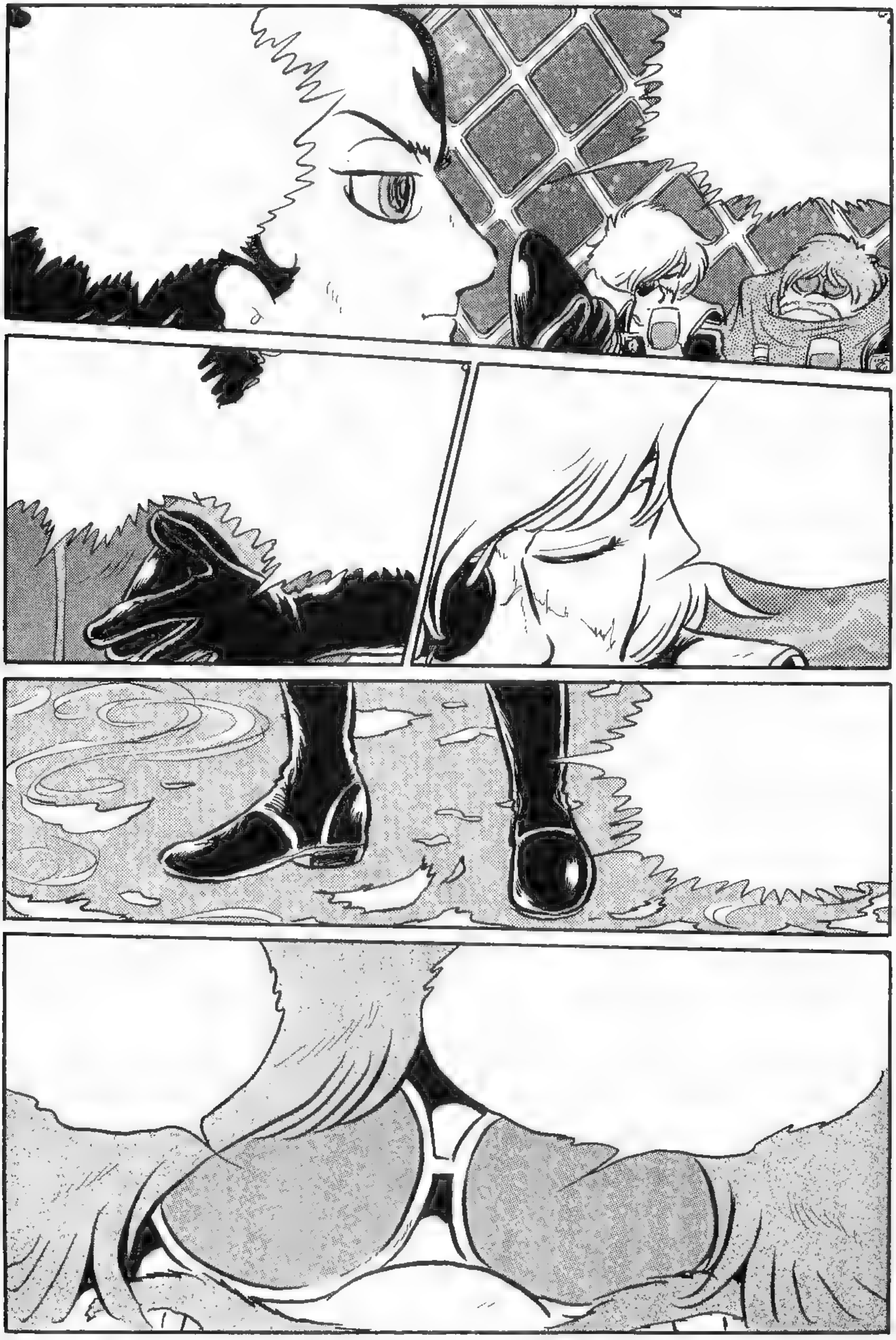
VERY WELL, THEN ...

GIVE IT UP, HAGEN. YOU CAN DROP THE DISGUISE NOW. WE KNEW WHO YOU WERE FROM THE MOMENT YOU CAME ABOARD.

DO YOUR WORST, HAGEN! YOU DON'T FOOL ME, YOU DUMBASS!!!



HOW DID YOU KNOW, GREAT HARLOCK?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT THE CHANGELING NET HAS FAILED ME.



IT IS A MARK OF HOW FAR WOTAN HAS FALLEN THAT HE WOULD WORK TOGETHER WILLINGLY WITH DARK QUEEN, THE MYSTERIOUS ENTITY WHOM THE METANOIDS REGARD AS A GOD. HAGEN, SON OF ALBERICH AND STEPBROTHER OF BRUNHILDE, HAS FOR LONG WORKED AS WOTAN'S AGENT WITH BOTH DARK QUEEN AND HER METANOID FOLLOWERS ....

HE HAS CHOSEN TO FORGET THAT SUCH AN ALLIANCE CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF HALF OF VALHALLA IN THE ANCIENT WAR SO LONG AGO ....

THIS IS TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO PASS UP! I NEVER DID LIKE THAT JACKASS.

SO ... HAGEN IS NOW ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW THREATENING GREAT HARLOCK.

WE SHALL KILL BOTH HAGEN AND GREAT HARLOCK IN ONE BLOW! THAT "SURPRISE" WE SECRETLY PLANTED INSIDE HAGEN WHEN HE WAS WITH US!! ACTIVATE IT!!!

NO ONE WHO CLAIMS TO BE A GOD CAN ESCAPE THE DISEASE OF MEGALOMANIA FOR LONG. ITS SUREST SIGN OF INFECTION IS A TOTAL DISREGARD FOR THE LIVES OF OTHERS AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF ACTING ON THAT DISREGARD. HAGEN IS SOON TO LEARN THAT HIS VAUNTED STATUS AS A WARRIOR OF LORD WOTAN MEANS NOTHING TO THE MASTER HE SERVES. HE IS JUST A TOOL ... AND ONCE TOOLS HAVE SERVED THEIR PURPOSE AND ARE NEEDED NO MORE, THEN THEY ARE THROWN AWAY ....

Siegfried

Ring 55 : The Eternal Danger

LEGEND SAYS THAT VALHALLA WAS ONCE AN IDYLLIC PARADISE ... BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE ANCIENT WAR. TODAY IT IS THE RUINED SHELL OF A HALF-WORLD, WHOSE INHABITANTS CLING TO THEIR ILLUSIONS OF PLEASURE AND PROSPERITY, AND STILL REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE REALITY THAT THEIR POWER IS NOT ABSOLUTE, AND THAT THE UNIVERSE HAS MOVED ON WITHOUT THEM ....

MY LORD WOTAN, THERE ARE TWO THINGS INTERFERING WITH OUR SIGNAL REACHING HIS IMPLANT -- THE NULL VOID FIELD THAT THE PHANTASMA MAKES, AND THE MUSICAL RADIATION COMING FROM THE PLANET RHINE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "IT ISN'T WORKING?!" OUR IMPLANT IS STILL INSIDE HAGEN'S BODY -- ISN'T IT?! WELL?!?!

MIIME! JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?!

CLICK!

CLICK!

CLICK!

'CUZ I'M NOT.

OH, MY. ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED, HAGEN?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT MY LORD WOTAN THINKS OF YOU? HERE! LISTEN!!

BRAVE WORDS, LITTLE MAN.

...*CRACKLE* ... *BUZZ* ... NOW THAT THAT JACKASS ... *POP* ... ALONE WITH THEM ... *BUZZ* ... AND THEN HE'LL BLOW UP WITH THEM ... *CRACKLE* ...

WHAT?!! I--

IT SEEMS WOTAN HAD YOU WIRED, HAGEN. YOU'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIM. YOU'RE NOTHING BUT AN EXPENDABLE ... "JACKASS?"

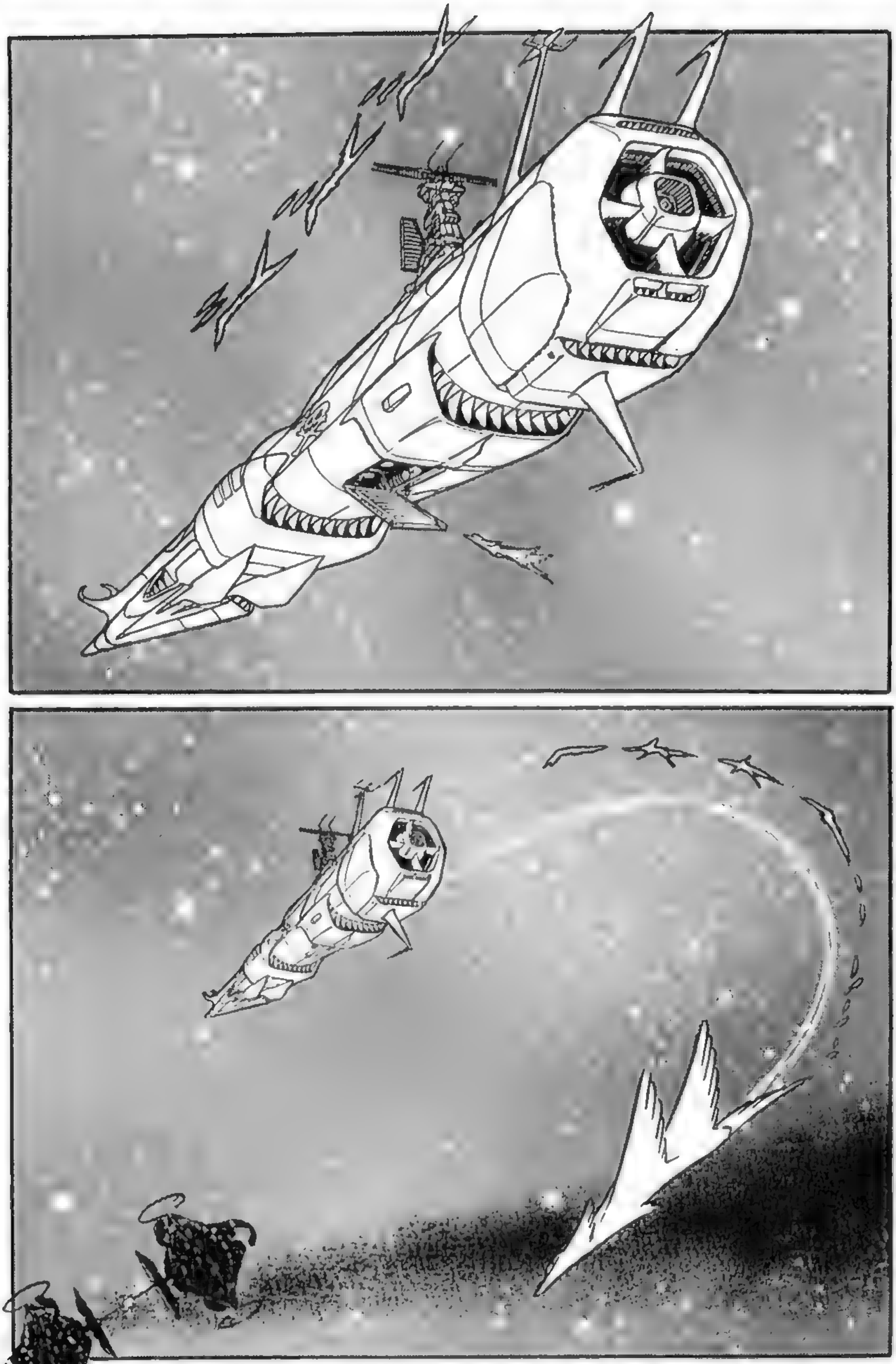
WELL, WELL. NOW ISN'T THAT NEWS INTERESTING?

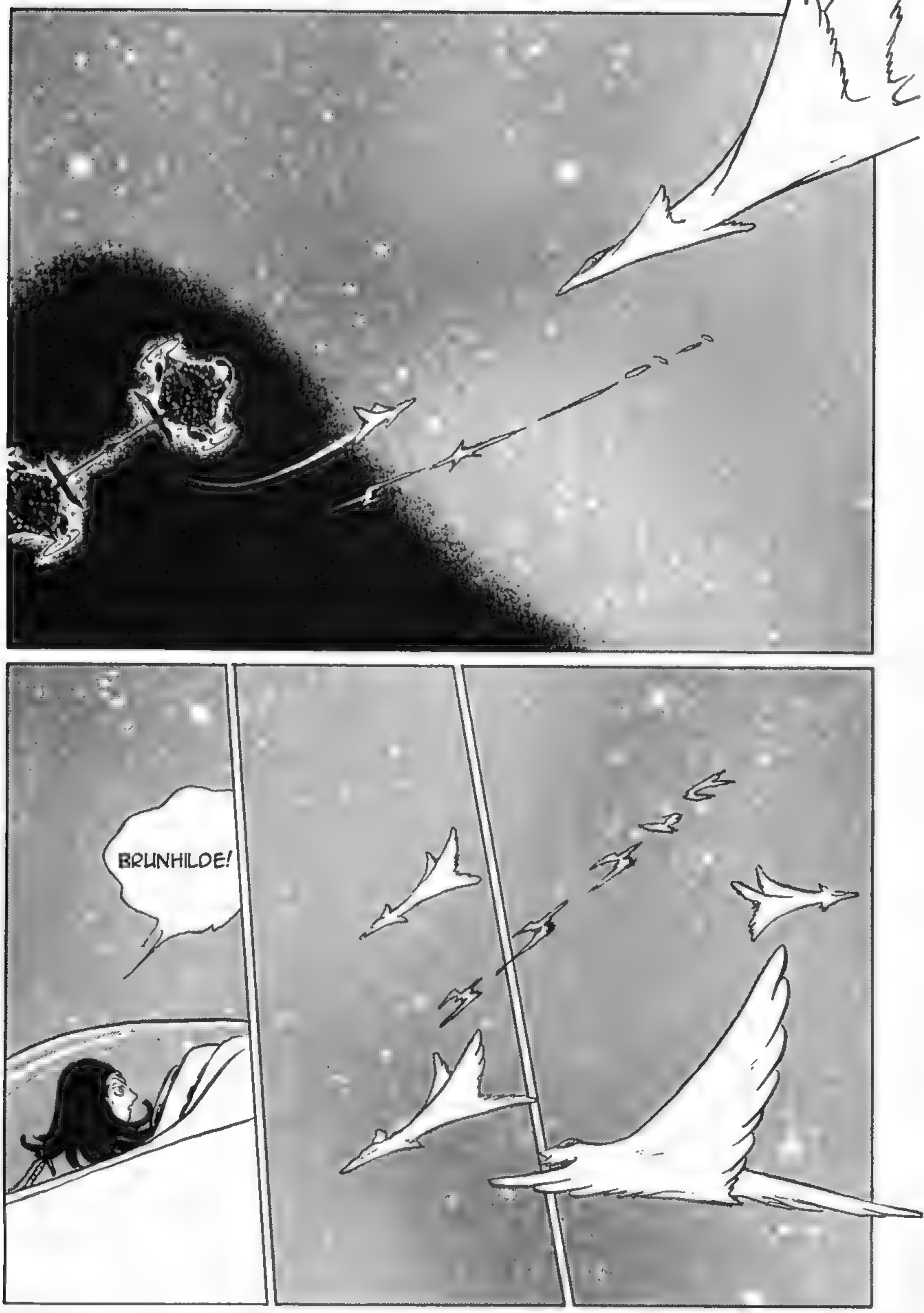
... WOTAN ... !

WHAT WILL THE DARK QUEEN AND HER METANOIDS SAY WHEN YOU BLOW UP, HAGEN, ON THE DIRECT ORDERS OF YOUR LORD WOTAN?!

IF SHE WASN'T INTERFERING WITH WOTAN'S SIGNAL TO ACTIVATE YOUR IMPLANT, YOU'D BE DEAD.

THE ONLY THING THAT'S SAVING YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW IS MIIME AND HER COSMIC ORGAN ON PLANET RHINE.



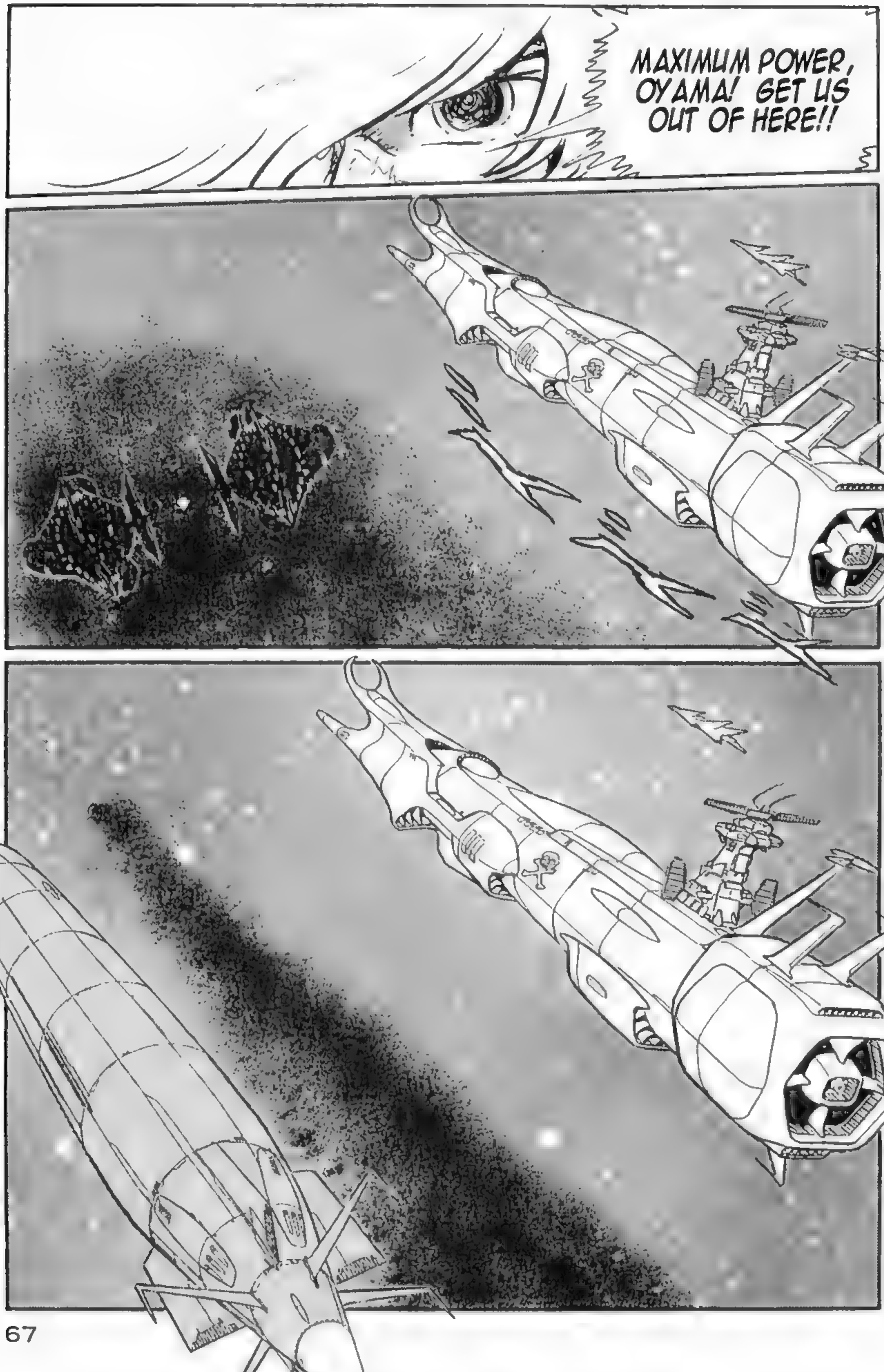

BRUNHILDE!

GREAT HARLOCK FIGHTS FOR THE CAUSE OF RIGHT! YOU'RE JUST A LACKEY OF HELL!!

HAGEN! WHT ARE YOU DOING THIS? HAVE YOU NO SHAME?!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A TRAITOR TO LIFE ITSELF?! HAGEN, YOU'RE DISGUSTING!!!

RETURN TO THE DARKNESS FROM WHENCE YOU CAME, BEFORE I SEND YOU TO HELL MYSELF!!!


MAXIMUM POWER, OYAMA! GET US OUT OF HERE!!

WAS I SEEING THINGS, OR WERE THERE TWO VAKLYRIE FIGHTERS OVER THERE JUST NOW? WAS IT AN ILLUSION?

LOOK! THEY'RE PULLING AWAY AS FAST AS THEY CAN.

LOOK!

HAGEN'S SHIP!! IT'S VANISHED!!!

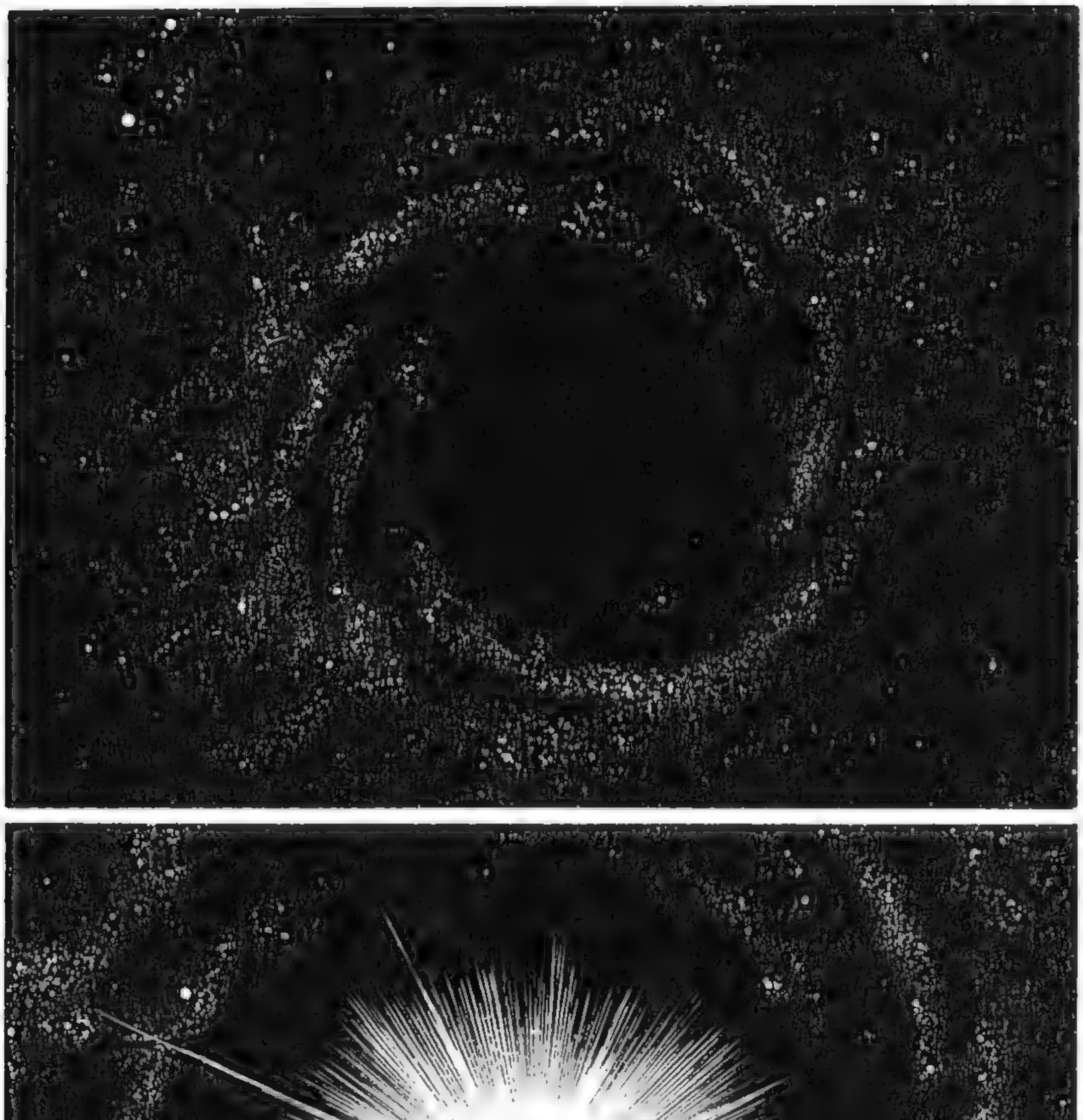
YOU KNOW, IF WOTAN STILL THINKS HAGEN IS ABOARD OUR SHIP ...

WELL WASN'T THAT IRONIC! HAGEN CAME TO KILL US, ONLY TO LEARN THAT WOTAN WAS GOING TO KILL HIM AS PART OF THE DEAL! HE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT FOURTH BOMB PLANTED INSIDE HIMSELF!

GOOD THINKING.

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I ORDERED US TO CLEAR THE AREA AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

LET'S GET READY TO WATCH THE FIREWORKS.



WELL AIN'T THAT SOMETHING! WHEN HAGEN'S SHIP BLEW UP, IT TOOK THAT NULL VOID FIELD WITH IT! AM I GLAD TO SEE THAT!!!

THE SIGNAL WE SENT EARLIER TO HIS IMPLANT MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH, MY LORD.

WH--WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO HAGEN'S SHIP?!!

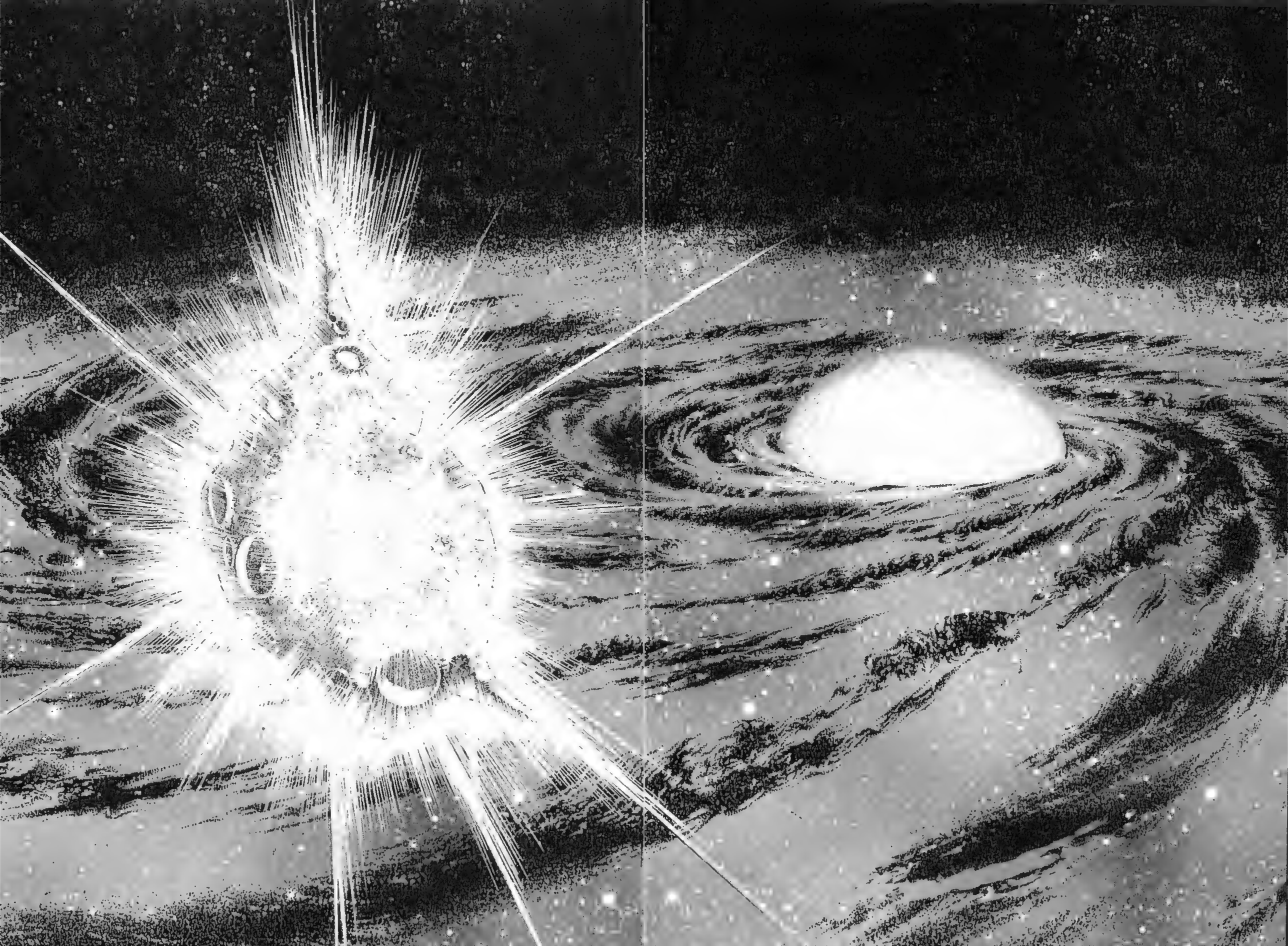
BUT MY LORD! YOUR LAST ORDER WAS TO KEEP TRYING TO REACH HIM!

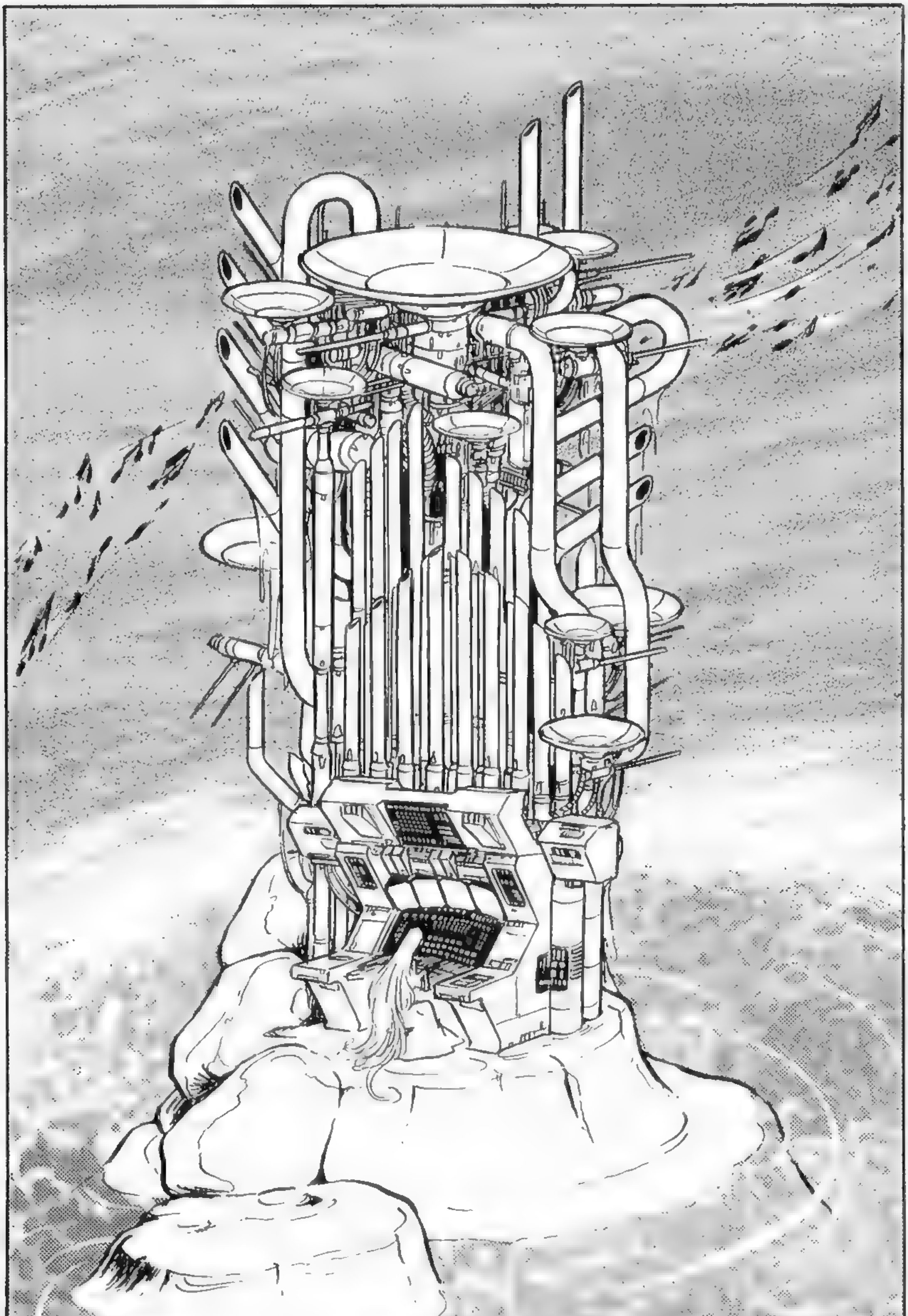
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU SHUT IT OFF?!?!?!

AS SOON AS WE HAD IT READY, WE SENT IT -- ON YOUR ORDER!!

YOU ORDERED US TO TRY AGAIN WITH A MAXIMUM POWER BOOST!

OH, WELL ... I WAS GOING TO KILL HIM ANYWAY.





LOOKS LIKE BRUNHILDE IS GOING BACK ON BOARD THE DEATH SHADOW.

PRRRRRRRR ...

THE CURRENT CRISIS IS PAST ... YET THE DOOR OF DARKNESS WILL OPEN AGAIN. ANOTHER THREAT - AN EVEN GREATER ONE - WILL SOON THREATEN THE UNIVERSE, AND ENGULF THE DEATH SHADOW!!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, QUEEN EMERALDAS?

ON THIS PART OF THE GALACTIC RIM, THERE ARE TALES ABOUT A "DOORWAY TO DARKNESS" - A BLACK PIT OF HELL THAT CAN NOT ONLY SWALLOW A STARSHIP WHOLE, BUT IS SAID TO HAVE DEVOURED ENTIRE FLEETS IN TIMES PAST. PERHAPS THE SHIP OF THE LATE HAGEN HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS TALE. PERHAPS THE ENCOUNTER WITH HAGEN WAS MERELY A PRELUDE -- FOR WHAT WILL WOTAN DO NEXT IN HIS INSANE QUEST FOR VENGEANCE AGAINST CAPTAIN HARLOCK? TO WHAT END WILL HE GO TO ACHIEVE THE DEATH OF GREAT HARLOCK?!

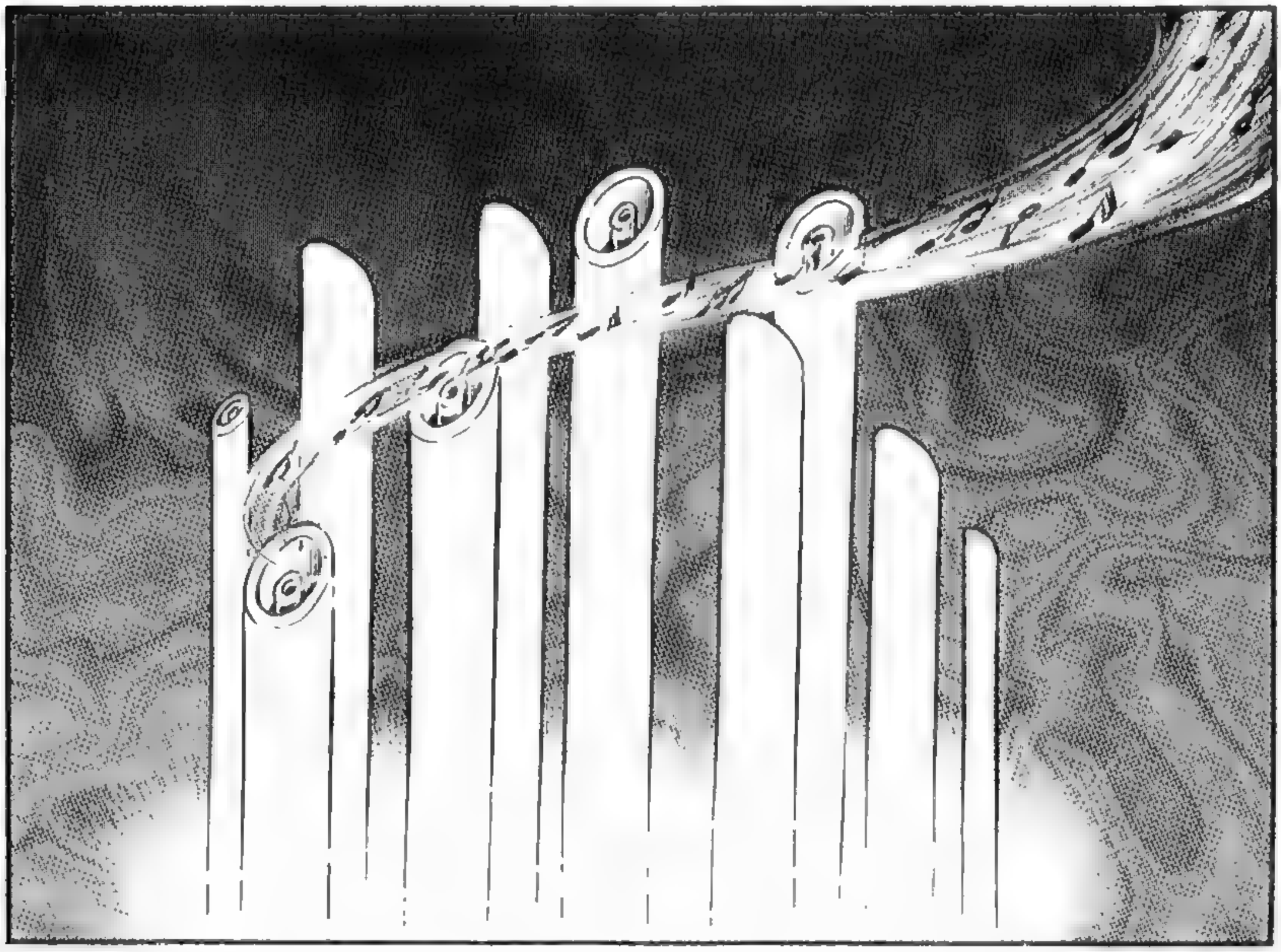
Siegfried

Ring 56 ; A Warning

ANOTHER PIECE OF THE FUTURE PATTERN HAS FALLEN INTO PLACE: MIIME NOW PLAYS THE REPAIRED COSMIC ORGAN ON THE PLANET RHINE. THOUGH ITS REPAIRS HAVE CHANGED ITS APPEARANCE AND LESSED ITS PHYSICAL BEAUTY, THE POWER OF ITS VOICE HAS BEEN FULLY RESTORED -- THANKS TO MIIME, THE RHINEMAIDENS, AND GREAT HARLOCK. THIS IS SOMETHING WOTAN DID NOT EXPECT ....

MAN, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THE PLANET RHINE! THAT COSMIC ORGAN OF MIIME'S JUST KEEPS RAMPING UP ITS MUSICAL RADIATION MORE AND MORE!

YOU THINK MAYBE SHE'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING?



IT'S LIKE THE LAST TIME -- I CAN ONLY MAKE OUT BITS AND PIECES, BUT I CAN'T DECIPHER THE WHOLE THING!

IT'S ALMOST LIKE SHE'S TRYING TO SEND US A WARNING! WHAT DO YOU THINK IT COULD BE, HARLOCK? IT COULD ONLY BE A PROBLEM WITH THE SHIP, BUT I DON'T KNOW OF ANY!

KEEP TRYING, DR. OYAMA. WE'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT SHE'S TRYING TO TELL US.

MAYBE SHE'S FIGURED OUT WHAT WOTAN IS GOING TO THROW AT US NEXT. IT WON'T BE PRETTY, WHATEVER IT IS.

WE OUGHTTA BRING MY BOY OVER HERE. THIS IS RIGHT UP THAT WEIRD LITTLE ALLEY OF HIS!

GODDAMNIT!!! I'M DOING THE BEST I CAN, BUT IT ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH!!!

BRUNHILDE! THERE YOU ARE. LOOK, MIIME IS TRYING TO WARN US ABOUT SOMETHING, BUT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ THE SOUNDS OF THE COSMIC ORGAN. CAN YOU TELL WHAT SHE WANTS?

AHH! THE QUEEN EMERADAS IS CLOSING ON US. THE BOYS HAVE HEARD IT, TOO.

SHE'S USING SOME KIND OF CODE. THAT MEANS SHE FEARS WOTAN MIGHT BE LISTENING.

MIIME'S PLAYING SOUNDS FIERCE. I THINK SHE'S TRYING TO WARN OUR DADS ABOUT SOMETHING ... BUT WHAT?

PUURRRRRRRR ...

... BUT WHATEVER IT IS, IT MUST BE PRETTY BAD IF SHE DOESN'T WANT WOTAN TO KNOW THAT SHE KNOWS!

THEY DON'T KNOW THE CODE! ... AND I DON'T, EITHER ...

I WISH THERE HAD BEEN SOMETHING LEFT I COULD HAVE PICKED UP -- FOR MY COMBAT COLLECTION.

BESIDES, THAT CRUISER PHANTASMA OR WHATEVER IT WAS BLEW ITSELF UP! IT'S NOT A THREAT ANYMORE!

I WOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT IT, TOCHIRO. BRUNHILDE CAN HELP THEM FIGURE IT OUT.

SUCH DEDICATION! SO ADMIRABLE ....

OH, WELL ... BACK TO THE OL' SALT MINES!

... UHHH ... WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS ... AHH ...

WHY, THANK YOU!!! THAT IS TO SAY ... AH ... UHMM ... AHMM ...

OH, MY!

I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN YOU ... DEAR TOCHIRO.

SHE CALLED ME "DEAR!!!" OHHH, MAAAN!!! I'D BETTER NOT TURN AROUND!

"DEAR TOCHIRO!"

BOINNGG!!

FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, YOUNG ONES, BUT I THINK I HAVE DISCERNED WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE DEATH SHADOW.

WHO-HOO-HOO-HAA-AAAAA-AAAHH!!!

BZZZZZZRT!

HERE!

MAETEL! WATER BOTTLE!!

UHHHHH ... WHO'S COOKING THE BACON?

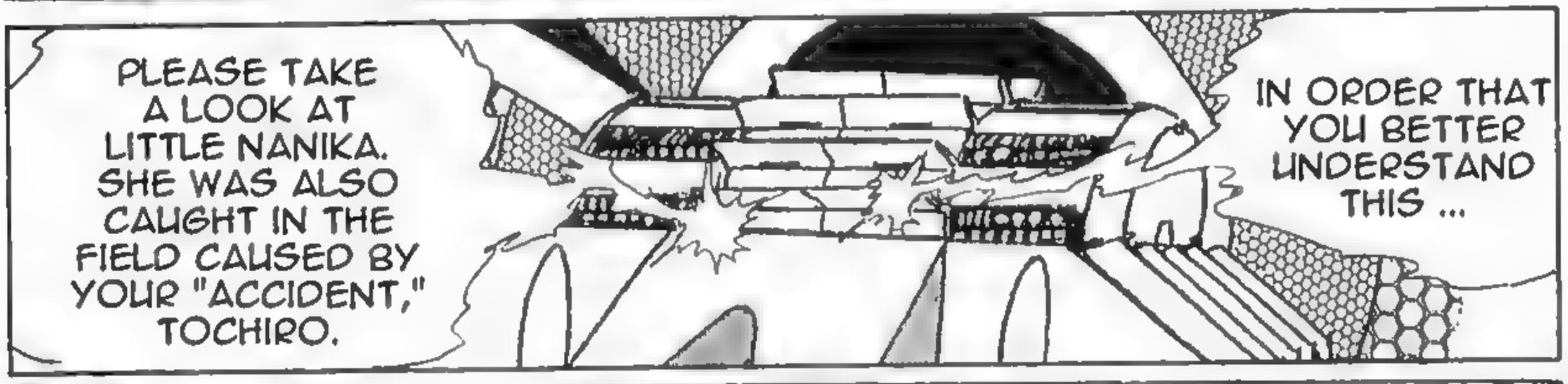
BUT-- MMMH?! MMMM? MHMHH ... MMMM ....

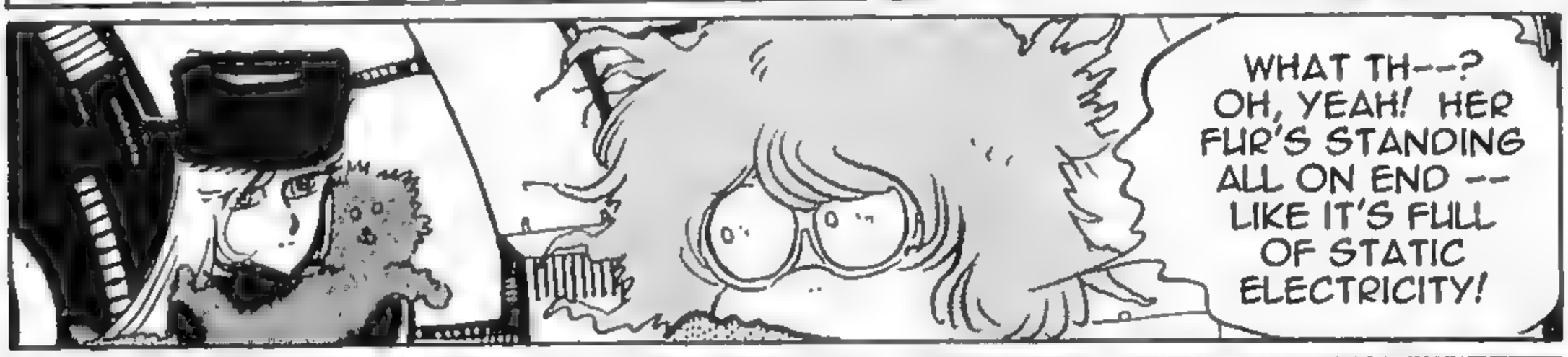
OPEN YOUR MOUTH ...

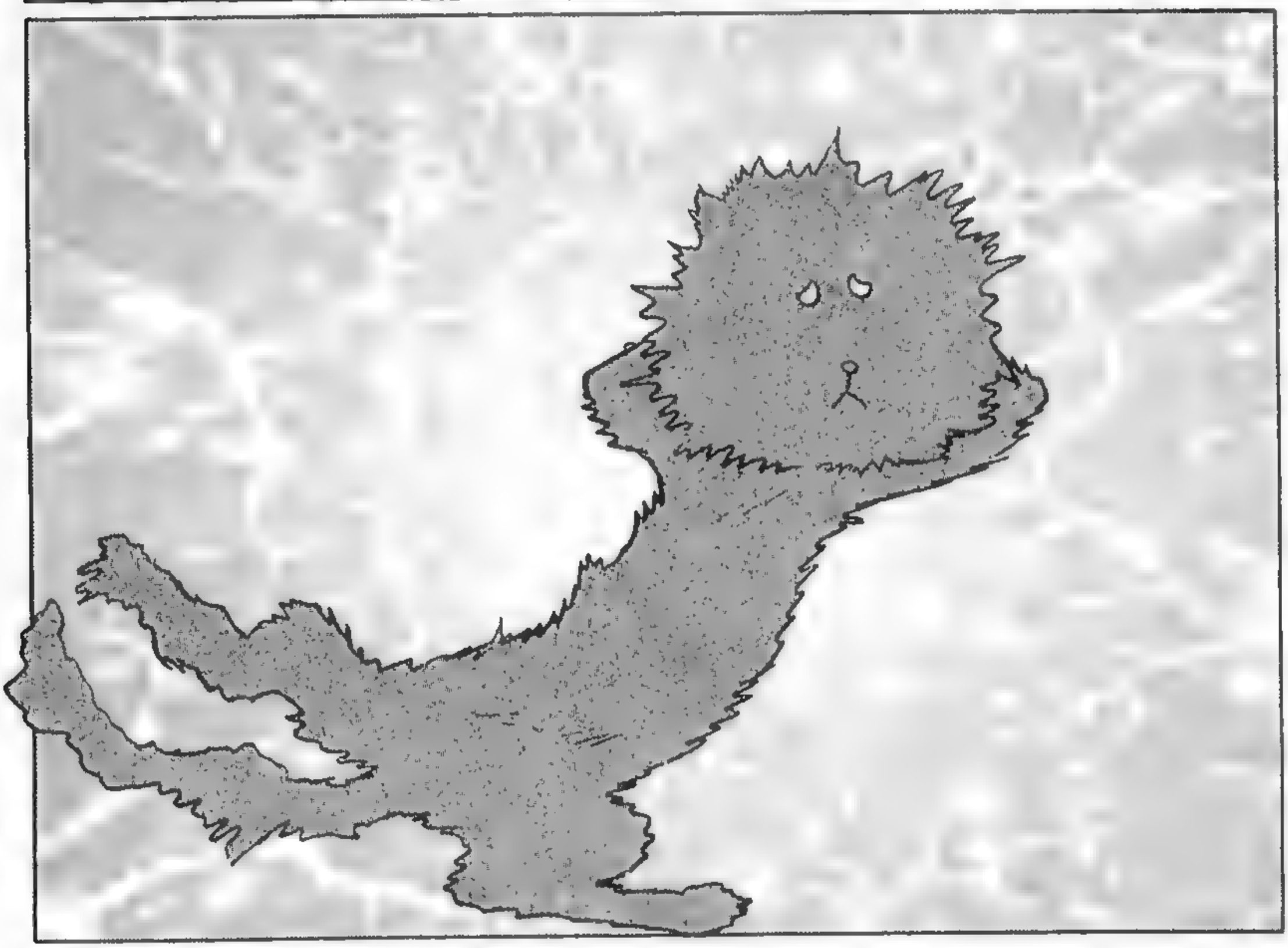
... THANK YOU ... EMERALDAS ... THAT'S THE MOST FUN I'VE EVER HAD ... GETTING A DRINK OF WATER.

THAT'S THE MOST FUN THAT I'VE EVER HAD SHARING ONE.

EHH ... WHAT?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY FATHER'S SHIP?


PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT LITTLE NANIKA. SHE WAS ALSO CAUGHT IN THE FIELD CAUSED BY YOUR "ACCIDENT," TOCHIRO.
IN ORDER THAT YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND THIS ...


WHAT TH--? OH, YEAH! HER FUR'S STANDING ALL ON END -- LIKE IT'S FULL OF STATIC ELECTRICITY!



IS IT SOMETHING LIKE THE ST. ELMO'S FIRE OF SPACE? THEIR HULL IS BUILDING UP A MASSIVE STATIC CHARGE?!

STATIC ... STATIC ... THE DEATH SHADOW'S NEW GOLD COATING! IT MUST BE!

THEY'D DRAW DOWN ANY STATIC CHARGE BEFORE IT EVER GOT BIG ENOUGH TO HURT ANYBODY.

BUT ST. ELMO'S FIRE ISN'T HARMFUL! AND BESIDES, MY DAD'S GOT AUTOMATIC DISCHARGERS BUILT INTO THE HULL!

INSTEAD OF WORKING LIKE THEY SHOULD, THE SHIP IS RAPIDLY BUILDING UP A CHARGE! BUT THAT WOULD SHOW UP ON THE BOARD!

WAIT A MINUTE ... WHAT IF THAT COATING WERE INTERFERING WITH THE STATIC DISCHARGERS?

... BUT ITS NEW COATING IS PREVENTING ITS SENSORS FROM DETECTING THE DANGER.

NO, TOCHIRO. NOT IN THIS CASE. THE DEATH SHADOW IS BUILDING UP A MASSIVE CHARGED ION FIELD ALONG THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF ITS HULL ...

WE'LL STOP AT THE FIRST PLANET OR STAR AND USE ITS NATURAL MAGNETIC FIELD TO DEGAUSS THE SHIP!

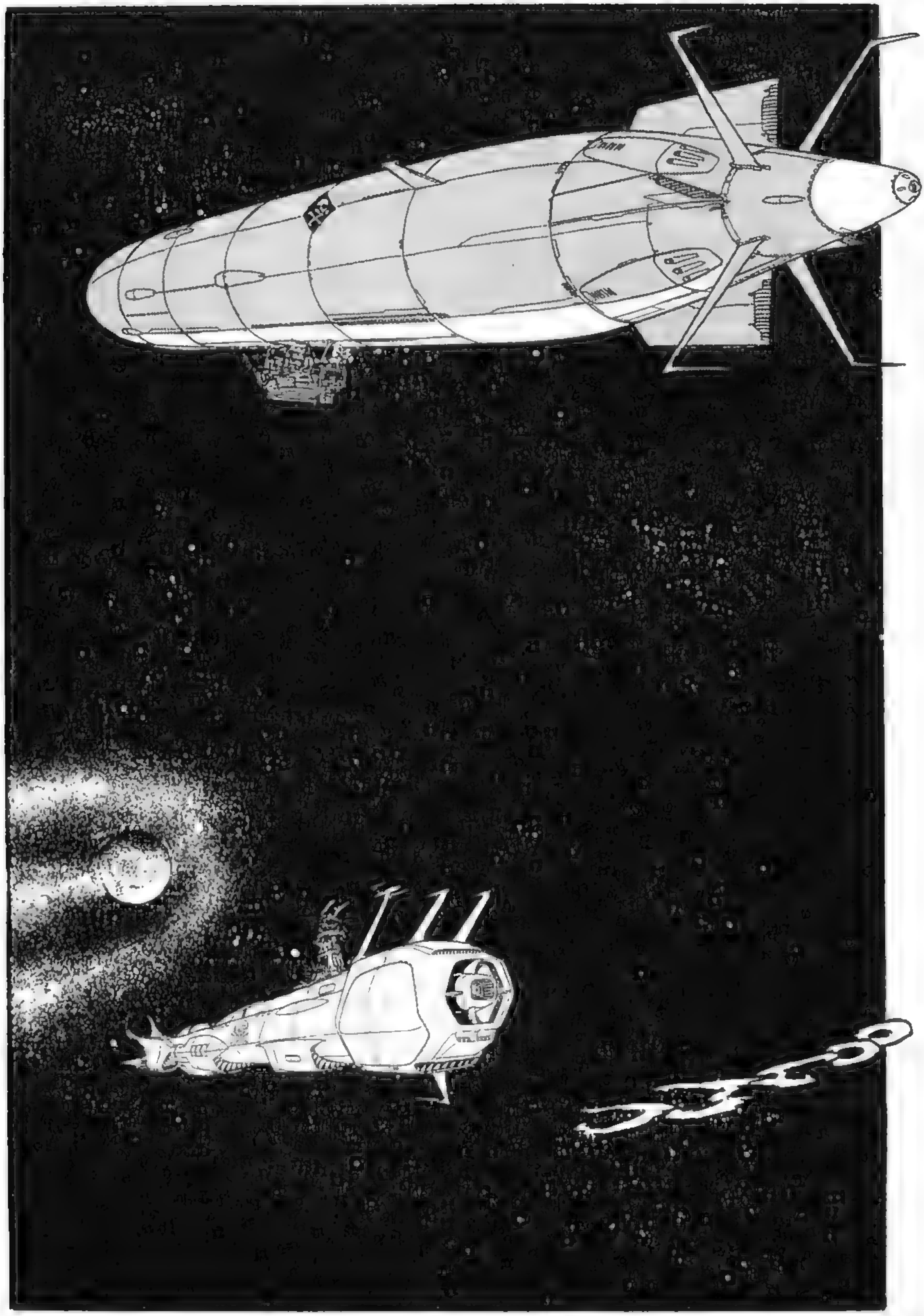
I SEE. GOOD WORK, BOYS. THE OLD SHIP WAS RIGHT. OUR BOARD DIDN'T SHOW ANY PROBLEM.

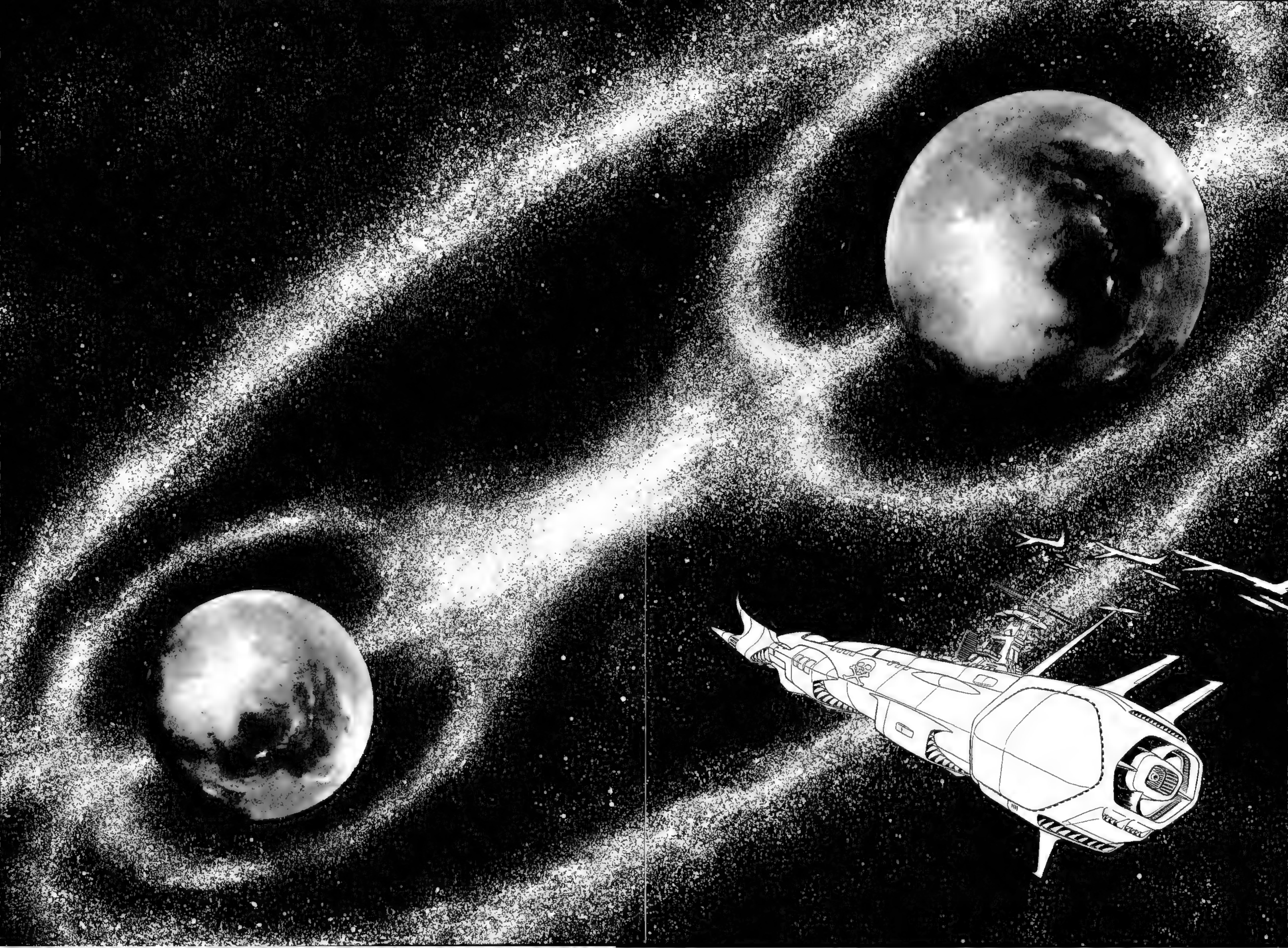
KIDS, Y'ALL BETTER BACK OFF ONCE WE GET THERE! DON'T WANT Y'ALL GETTING HIT BY THE DISCHARGE!

WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO FLY PRETTY FAST TO MAKE THIS WORK RIGHT!

THAT'S WHAT A FATHER'S FOR.

LIKE WE WERE PLANNING ON IT! GEEZ ... MY OLD MAN NEVER LETS UP ....





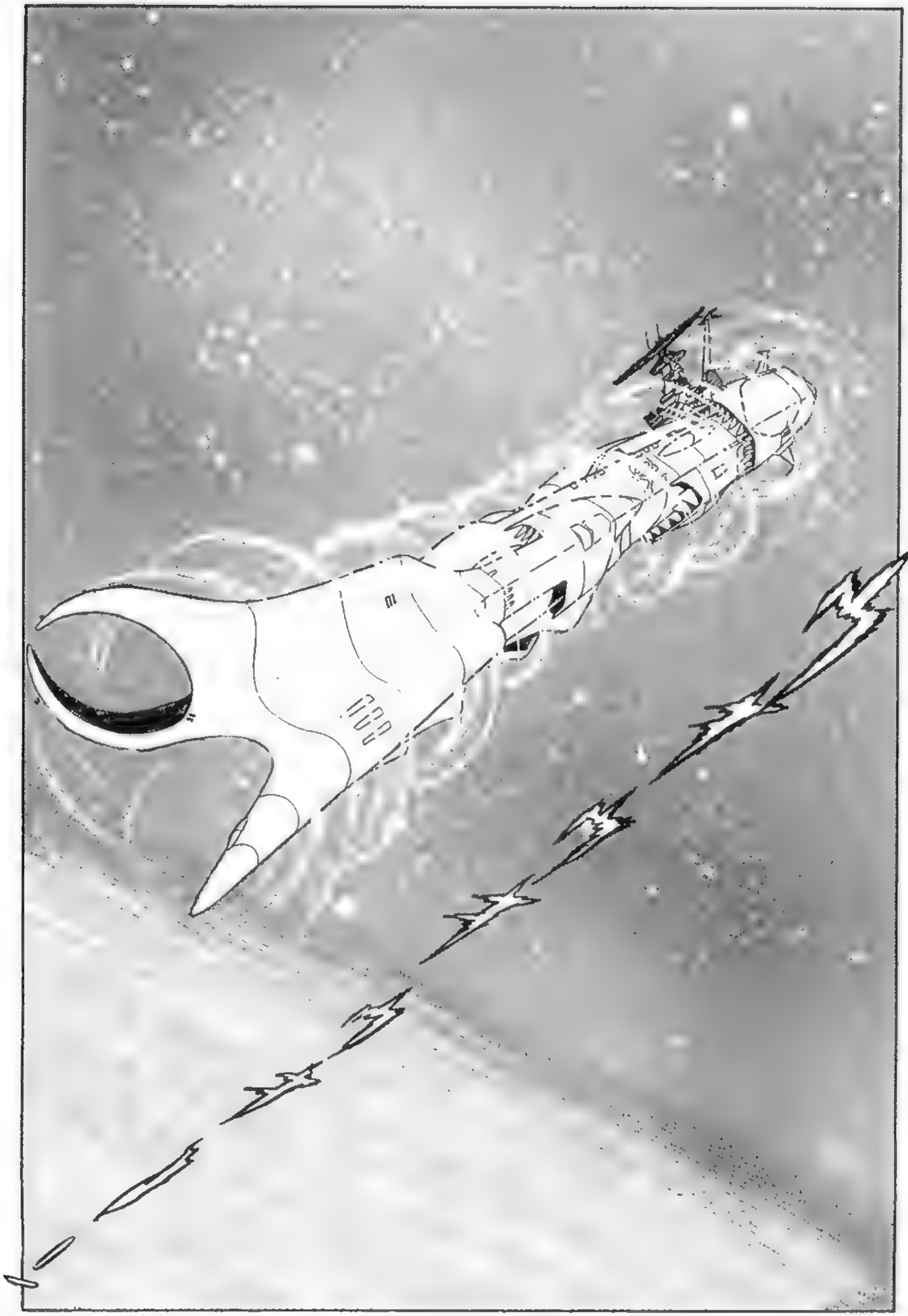
AH, YES - HEAT IS A BYPRODUCT OF ION EXCHANGE. WE'RE INSULATED AGAINST SUCH EXTREMES -- MORE SO ON THE BRIDGE.

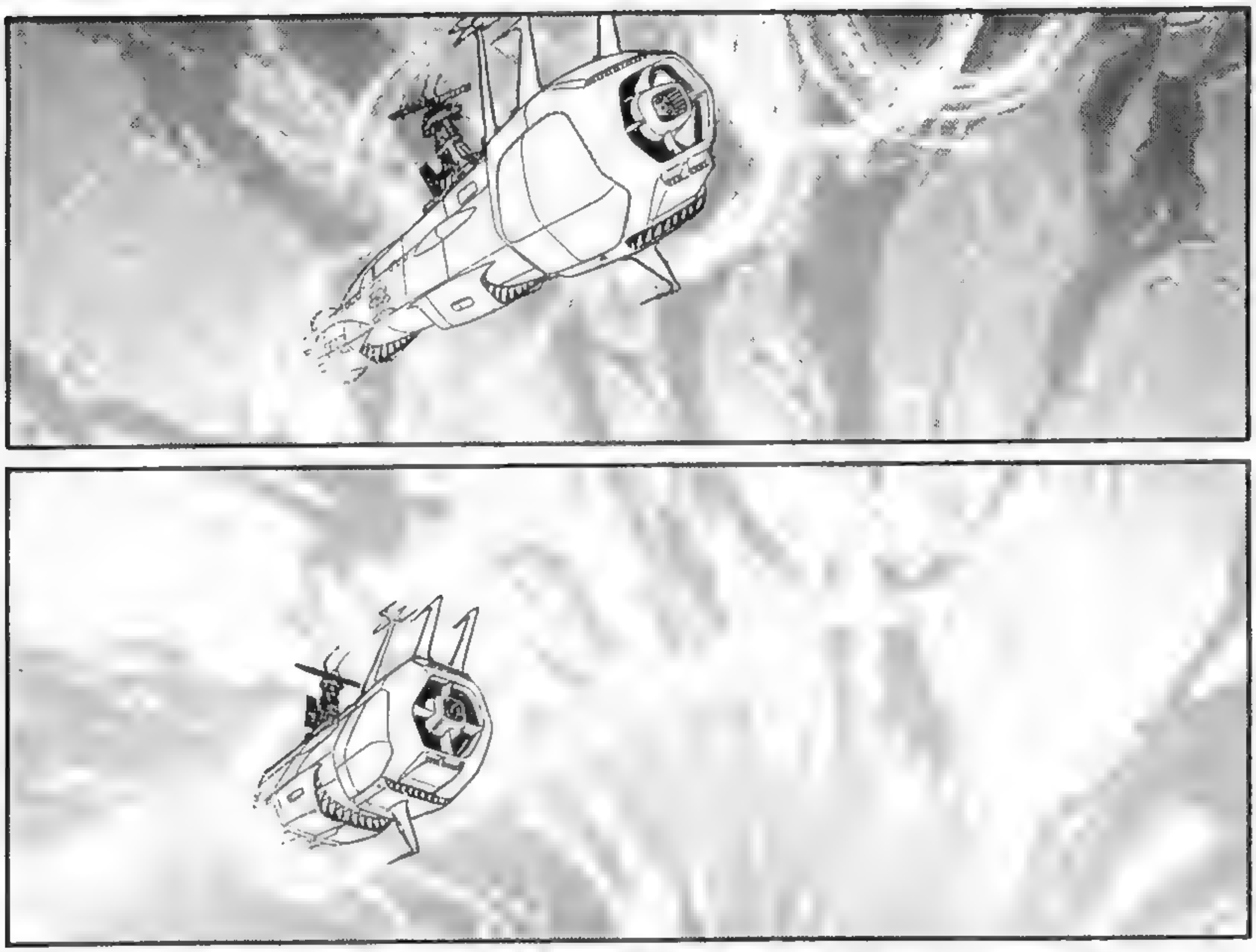
IF THIS WORKS, IT'LL STRIP THE SHIP OF OUR GOLD COATING AND SLUFF OFF THE IONIC CHARGE -- BUT IT'S GONNA GET AWFULLY HOT OUTSIDE!

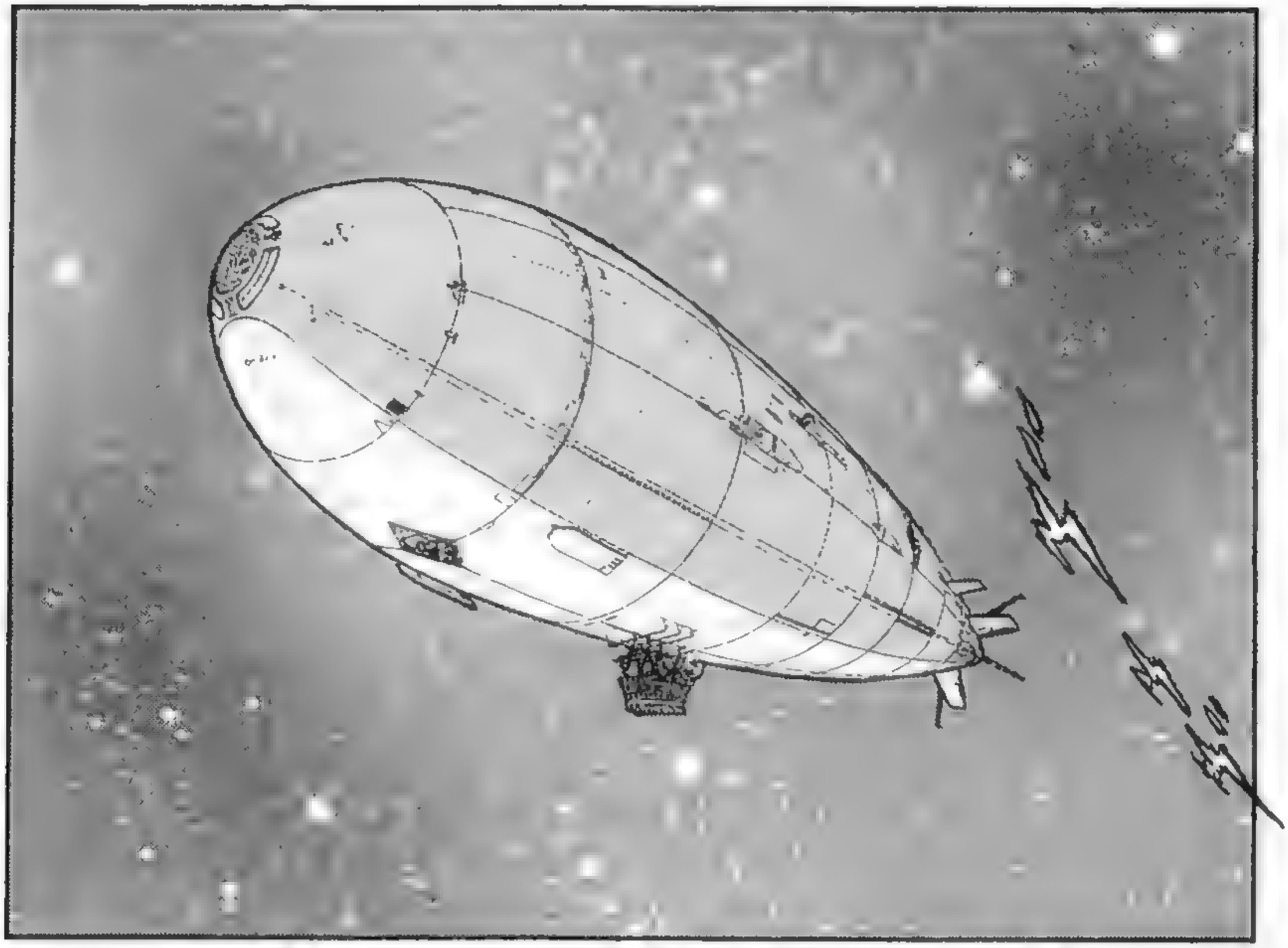
SO MUCH FOR CHIVALRY. AH! A BINARY PLANET PAIR! TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! *HANG ON! I'M GONNA PUT US RIGHT BETWEEN THEM AND SHAKE OFF THIS GOLD CRAP!!!*

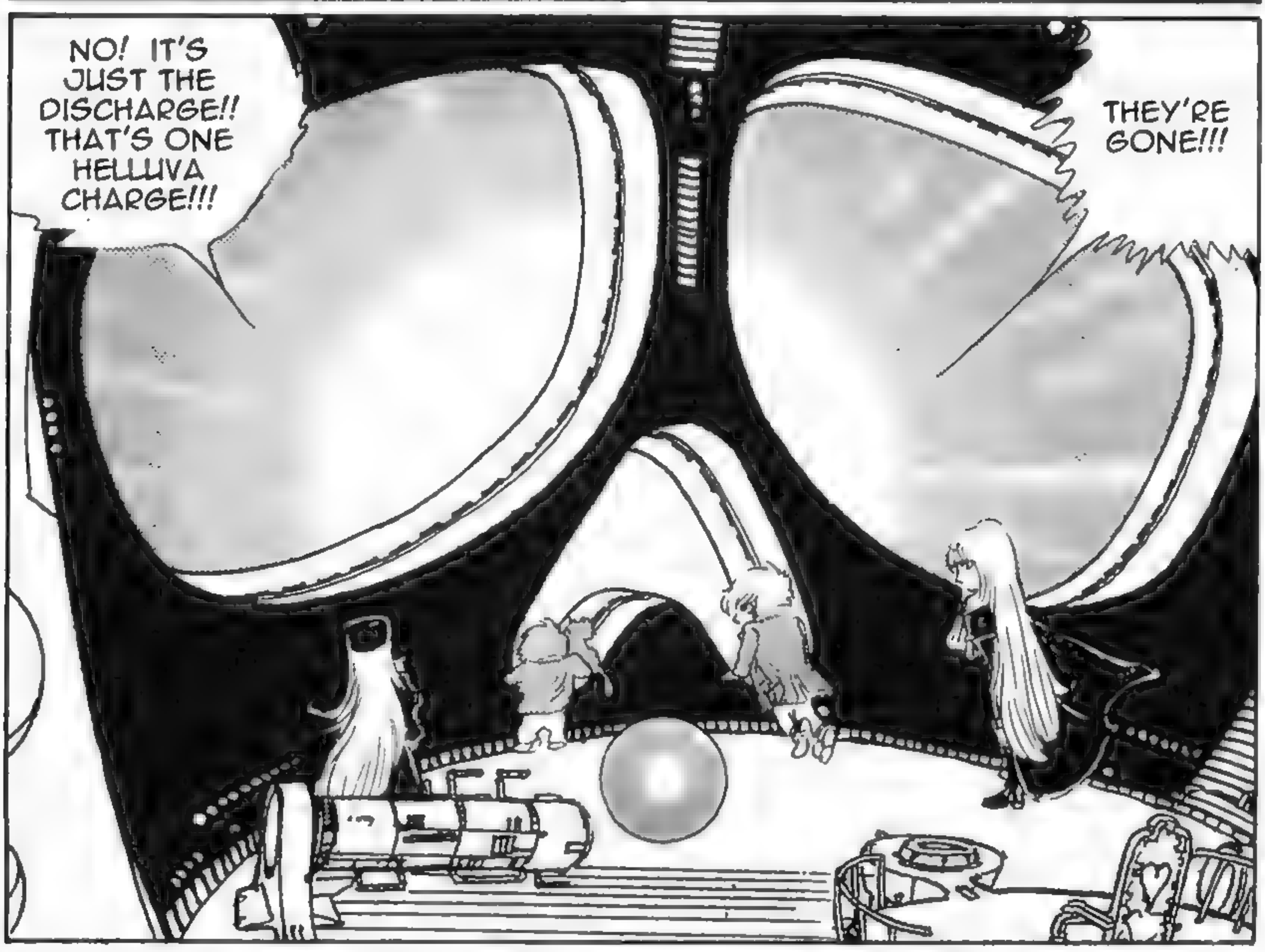
THANKS, BUT I'LL STAND. I CAN HOLD MY OWN, YOU KNOW.

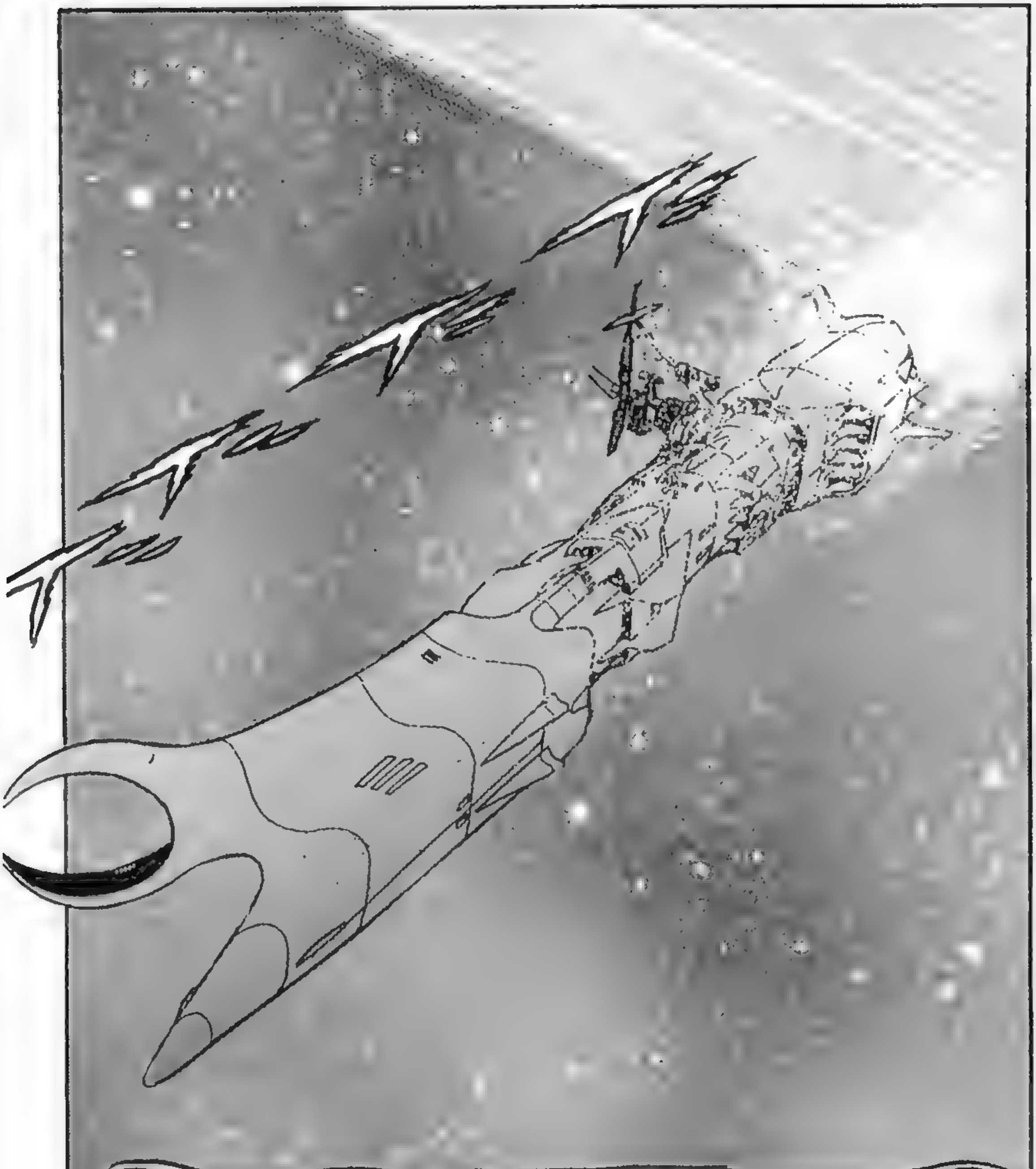
OH, AND ONCE WE GET TO THE POINT OF MAXIMUM DISCHARGE, THIS SHIP'S GONNA BUCK LIKE A BRONCO! YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A SEAT, BRUNHILDE.








NO! IT'S JUST THE DISCHARGE!! THAT'S ONE HELLUVA CHARGE!!!
THEY'RE GONE!!!


EVEN IN THE DAYS OF EARTH'S PAST, WHEN THE FIRST METAL SHIPS SAILED ITS SEAS, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE PERIODICALLY DEGAUSSED TO REMOVE THEIR ACCUMULATED STATIC CHARGE. THIS PHENOMENA IS ALSO TRUE OF THE SEA OF STARS. LIKE ANY OTHER SMALL PROBLEM, SUCH A THING CAN DESTROY A SHIP IF ONE IS UNAWARE OF IT, OR IGNORES IT FOR TOO LONG. IT IS JUST ONE OF NATURE'S MANY WAYS OF REMINDING US THAT WE ARE NOT THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE ....

YEP! OUR NEW COATING IS GONE, AND WITH IT THE IONIC BUILDUP! LIKE I SAID BEFORE -- I NEVER DID LIKE GOLD AS A SHIP'S PAINT.

LOOKS LIKE WE SUCCEEDED, DR. OYAMA.

UH-OH.

WHAT'S THAT ALARM?

IT'S GOING TO GET VERY COLD IN HERE ... VERY SOON.

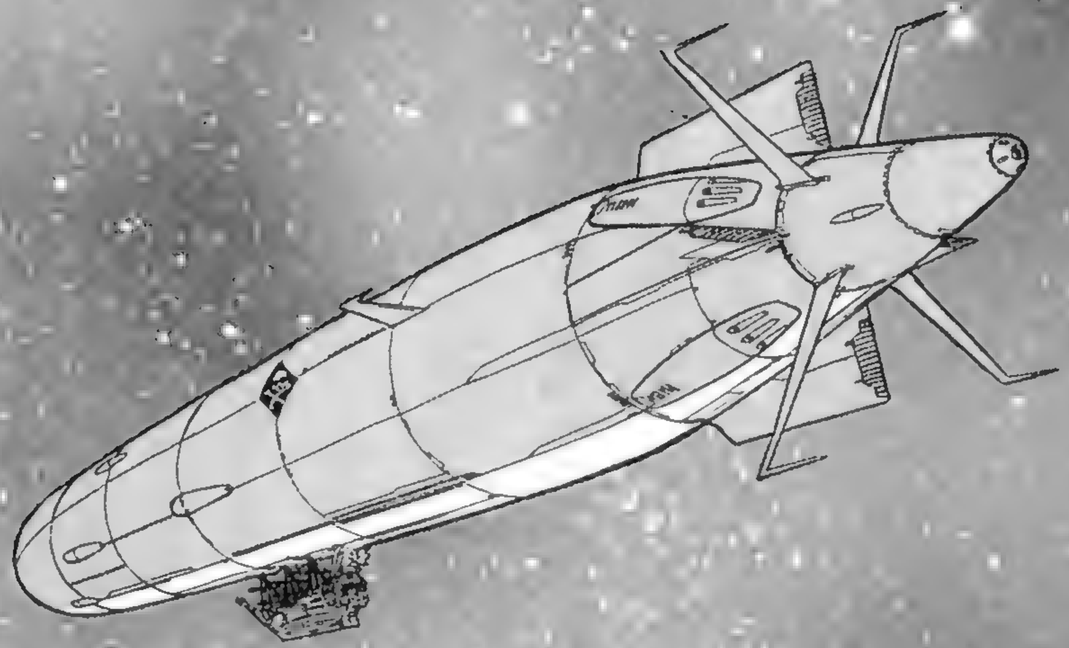
I'M SHOWING A RECIRC MOTOR FAIL IN THE MAIN ENGINE'S LIQUID OXYGEN COOLING SYSTEM. IT'S BLOWN OUT! YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.

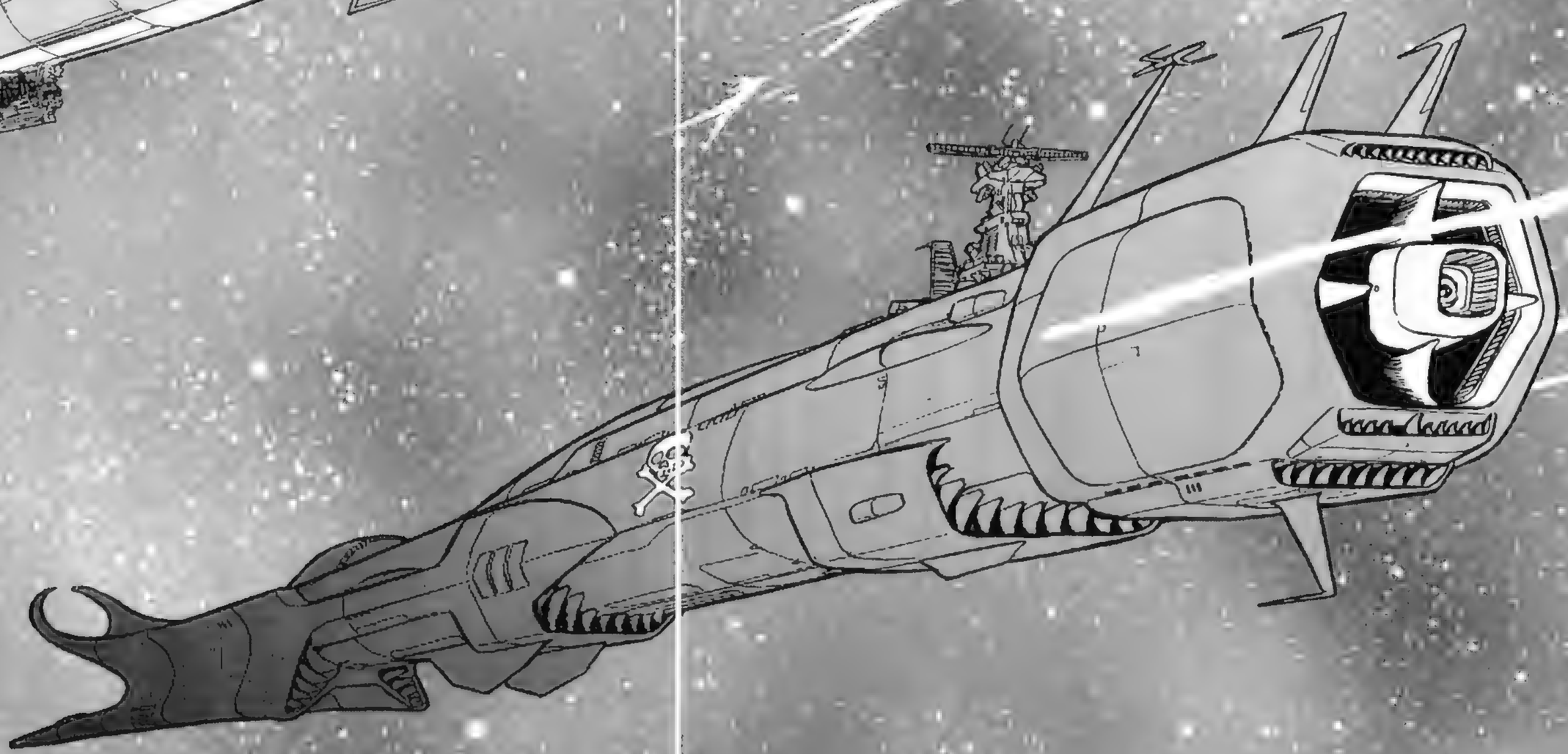
ALREADY DONE. WE'RE ON COURSE BACK TO THE PIRATE'S ISLE.

BRING US ABOUT BEFORE I HAVE TO SHUT DOWN THE MAIN ENGINE.

TOSHIRO! WAIT!! YOU'RE TOO IMPORTANT!!! LET THE REPAIR ANDROIDS HANDLE IT!!! TOSHIRO!!!

IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GOING TO GO HELP THE REPAIR CREWS, 'CUZ WE AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT BACK IN TIME ON AUXILIARIES ALONE! WE'LL FREEZE UP FIRST!





HE CAME DISGUISED AS YOU. WHY DO YOU ... OH, I SEE. YOU THINK HE MIGHT HAVE HAD AN EXTRA PASSENGER IN HIS SHIP.

HARLOCK ... HOW DID HAGEN GET INSIDE THE DEATH SHADOW?

A TYPICAL COWARD'S TACTIC. EXACTLY WHAT I WOULD EXPECT FROM A CONCEITED IMBECILE SERVING AS WOTAN'S AMBASSADOR TO THE DARK QUEEN.

A LIQUID FORM METANOID SUICIDE SOLDIER. IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE, NOW THAT YOU DRAW MY ATTENTION TO IT.

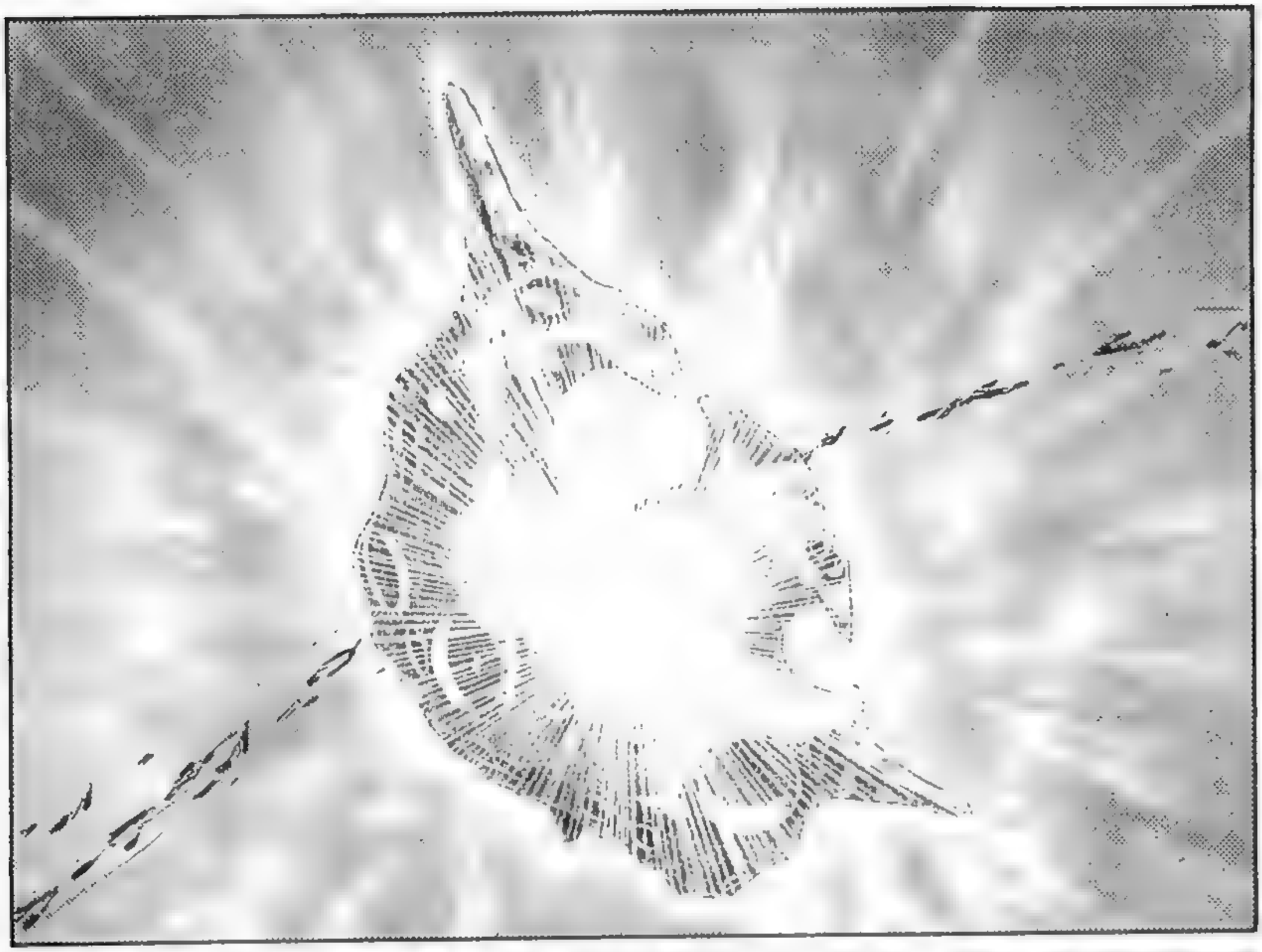
THE ORGAN'S GETTING MORE INTENSE! MIIME MUST REALLY BE UPSET!

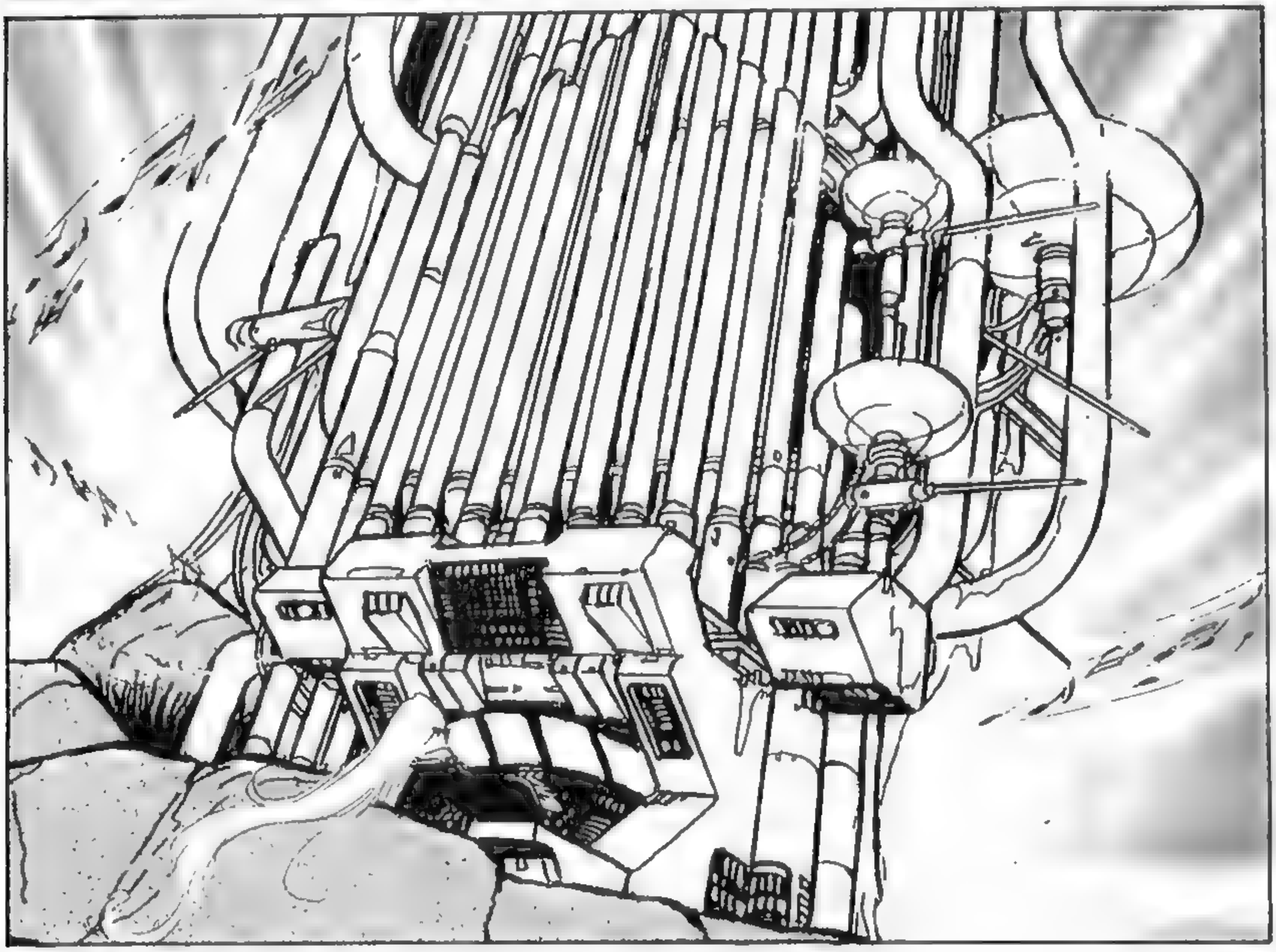
SHE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENED.

MEOW ....

YEAH, BUT I DON'T LIKE THAT SMOKE TRAIL COMING FROM THE MAIN ENGINE SECTION. I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ....

WELL, THE DEATH SHADOW'S BACK TO ITS NORMAL COLOR.





MIIME'S PLAYING EVEN HAS AN EFFECT ON THE KINGDOM OF THE GODS! ON VALHALLA ITSELF!!!

FREYA NEVER PLAYED WITH SUCH VIOLENCE! HER ARROGANCE IS OFFENSE!!!

... YET YOU HAD JUST ENOUGH WIT TO PLAY THE REAL ROLE I INTENDED FOR YOU ALL ALONG -- TO PUT MY AGENT ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW!

HAGEN ... YOU STUPID, CONCEITED, BLUNDERING FOOL ...

GAME OVER, MORTAL!! YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME BEFORE YOU FREEZE TO DEATH!!!

I'VE WON, GREAT HARLOCK!! DO YOU HEAR?!!

OHMIGAWD ... LOOK, TOCHIRO! THE DEATH SHADOW IS FREEZING UP FROM THE STERN FIRST! WHAT CAN WE DO?!

I DON'T KNOW!!!

WHEN DIFFERENT TWO REALMS MEET, IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISING WHEN THEIR DIFFERENCES ARE SO GREAT THAT LITTLE, IF ANY, UNDERSTANDING OCCURS. THAT IS WHY IT IS BEST TO JOURNEY THE SEA OF STARS IN AS UNBIASED AND OPEN-MINDED A MANNER AS POSSIBLE. THAT WAY, ONE RECOGNIZE SIGNIFICANT THINGS AND EVENTS FOR WHAT THEY ARE, INSTEAD OF ASCRIBING EVERYTHING TO BLIND LUCK.

Siegfried

Ring 57 : The Flames of Passion

ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACES TO BE IN THE SEA OF STARS IS A POINT WHERE DESTINIES CROSS. AS WITH NORMAL NATURAL PHENOMENA, THEIR ENERGIES WILL TEND TO CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT. PROPHECY AND PREDESTINATION BOTH GO OUT THE WINDOW, AND ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE. THE DEATH SHADOW IS THE FIRST HUMAN SHIP TO ENCOUNTER THIS SITUATION. THE PARAMETERS OF THIS PHENOMENA ARE THUS UNKNOWN, AS IS THE DANGER ....

THIS IS BAD, HARLOCK ... REALLY BAD! WE'RE FREEZING UP FROM BACK TO FRONT!!!

IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE YOUR SHIP WILL FALL TO ABSOLUTE ZERO!!! NO HUMAN CAN SURVIVE THAT!!!

I WIN, GREAT HARLOCK! GAME OVER!!!

HARLOCK! THE MAIN ENGINE IS FROZEN SOLID!! THERE'S NO WAY I CAN THAW AND RESTART IT BEFORE WE ALL FREEZE TO DEATH!!!

ANYONE GOT ANY IDEAS, 'CUZ I'M ALL EARS!!

TO THINK THAT MY FATHER WOULD STOOP SO LOW AS THIS! HE HAS FALLEN FAR FROM THE GOD HE ONCE WAS ....

SOMETIMES. WHY DO YOU ... ?

DOES WOTAN HAVE A HABIT OF HIDING BOMBS IN HIS UNDERLINGS, BRUNHILDE?

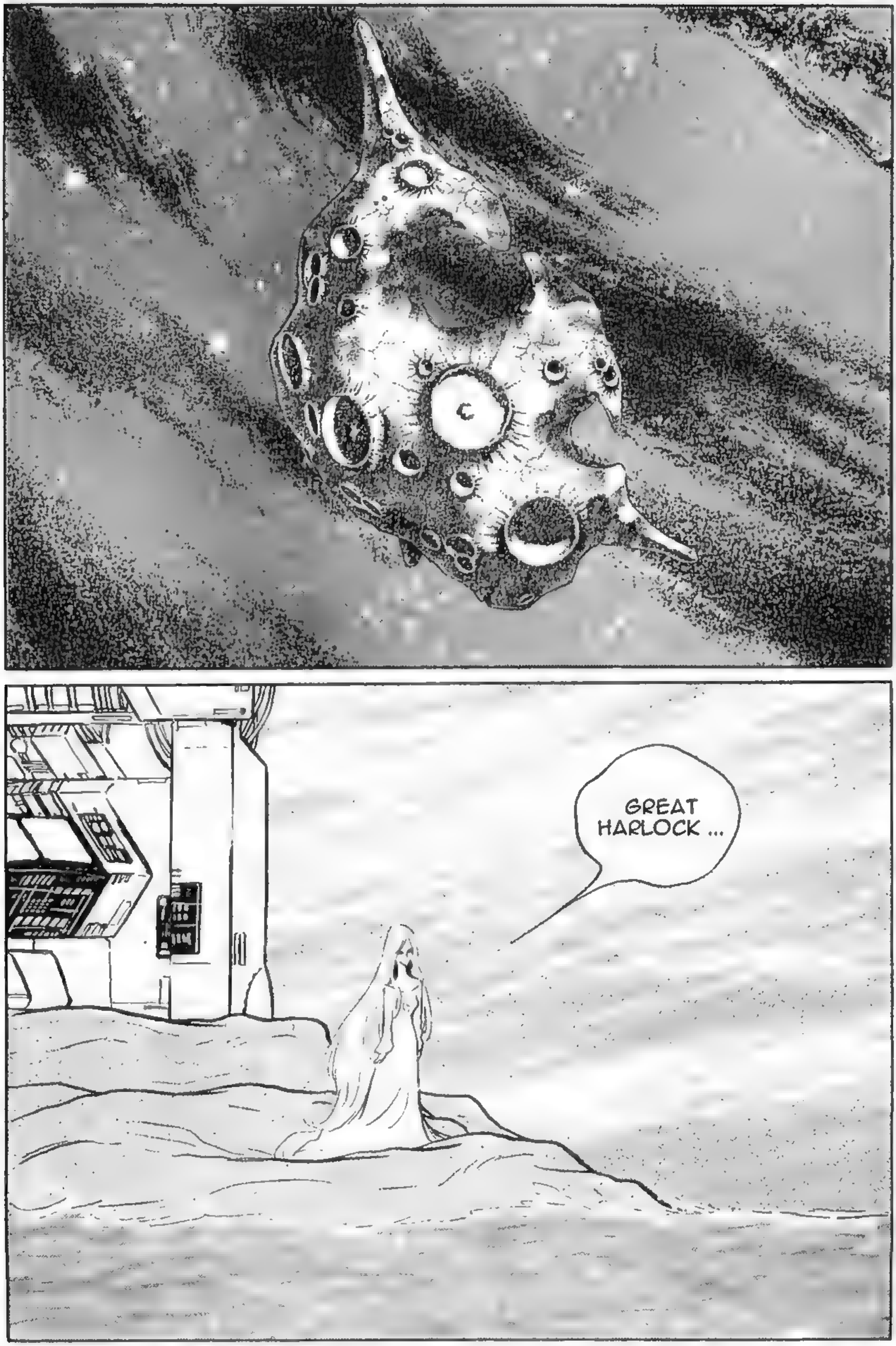
WOTAN HATED HAGEN. I WAS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE, HIS "DEAR DAUGHTER" WHO HE SPOILED ROTTEN. NO, HE WOULDN'T DO THAT TO ME.

IF HE'S FALLEN AS FAR AS YOU SAY, THEN I WOULDN'T PUT ANYTHING PAST HIM.

WHY HAVE YOU STOPPED, MIIME?

IT HAS?

SIR, THE COSMIC ORGAN ON RHINE HAS STOPPED PLAYING.


GREAT HARLOCK ...

I NEED MORE POWER, AND I'M ALREADY AT THE ORGAN'S LIMITS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO.

MIIME! WHY HAVE YOU STOPPED PLAYING? IS IT NOT HELPING YOUR FRIENDS ANYMORE?

... TO AMPLIFY THE SIGNAL. THE FASTER RHINE ROTATES, THE MORE POWERFUL THE SIGNAL BECOMES.

BUT WON'T THAT TEAR RHINE APART?

YOU CAN TAP THE POWER OF THE RHINEGOLD, INCREASE THE AXIAL ROTATION OF THE PLANET RHINE ...

AHH ...

I CAN?

YOU MOVED THIS PLANET ONCE BEFORE. YOU CAN MOVE IT AGAIN TO HELP YOU.

IT KEPT THIS WORLD SAFE FROM ALL HARM IN THE VOID BETWEEN THE RINGS OF TIME.

THE RHINEGOLD WILL KEEP RHINE FROM BREAKING UP.

IT IS THE MOST POWERFUL ENERGY SOURCE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE! WE KNOW YOU WILL USE IT WISELY, MIIME ....

THE BOND BETWEEN FATHER AND SON IS UNIQUE. THEY OFTEN THINK AND ACT THE SAME WAY. "LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON," THE SAYING GOES.

WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON, DAD?!

I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE, SON. YOU AND TOSHIRO AND YOUR TWO FRIENDS KEEP AWAY! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS OVER HERE!!

MISFORTUNE TENDS TO HIT LIKE A TIDAL WAVE, ROLLING OVER YOU IN A CHAIN REACTION OF BAD EVENTS, ONE RIGHT AFTER THE OTHER. IF YOU SURVIVE, THOUGH, THEN YOU ARE LIKE A PHOENIX RISING FROM THE ASHES. THE CHALLENGE OF ADVERSITY HAS MADE YOU A STRONGER PERSON. NOT EVERYONE HAS THE FORTITUDE TO BE MOLDED LIKE THIS; YET EACH PHOENIX BORN THIS WAY GOES ON TO EVEN GREATER THINGS. THIS IS A UNIVERSAL TRUTH ....

MY LORD WOTAN! THE POWER OF THE COSMIC ORGAN THERE HAS GROWN DRAMATICALLY STRONGER! AND IT'S BEING AIMED AT THE DEATH SHADOW!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE PLANET RHINE?!

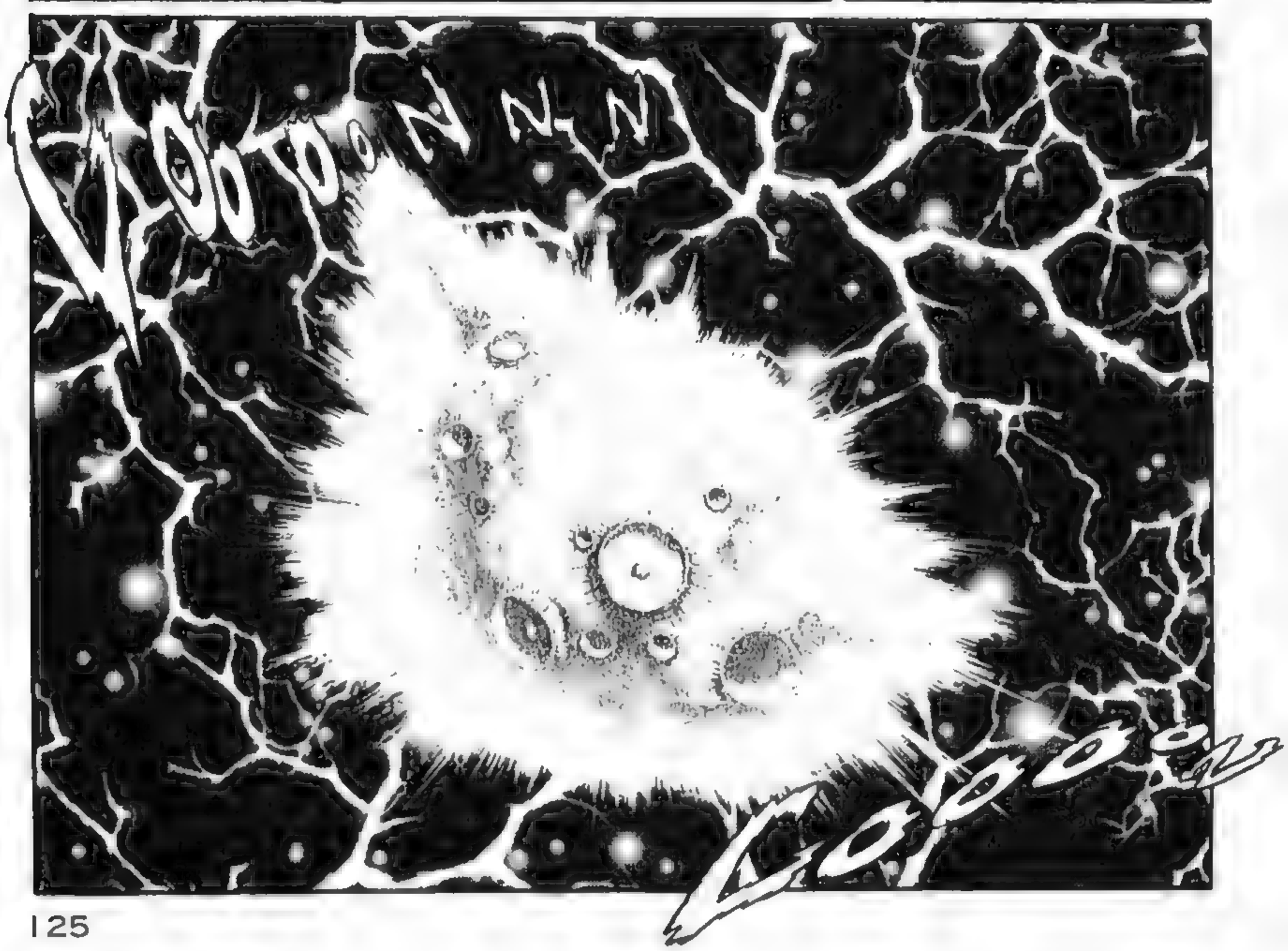
SHE'S TRYING TO CANCEL GREAT HARLOCK'S DEATH WARRANT!

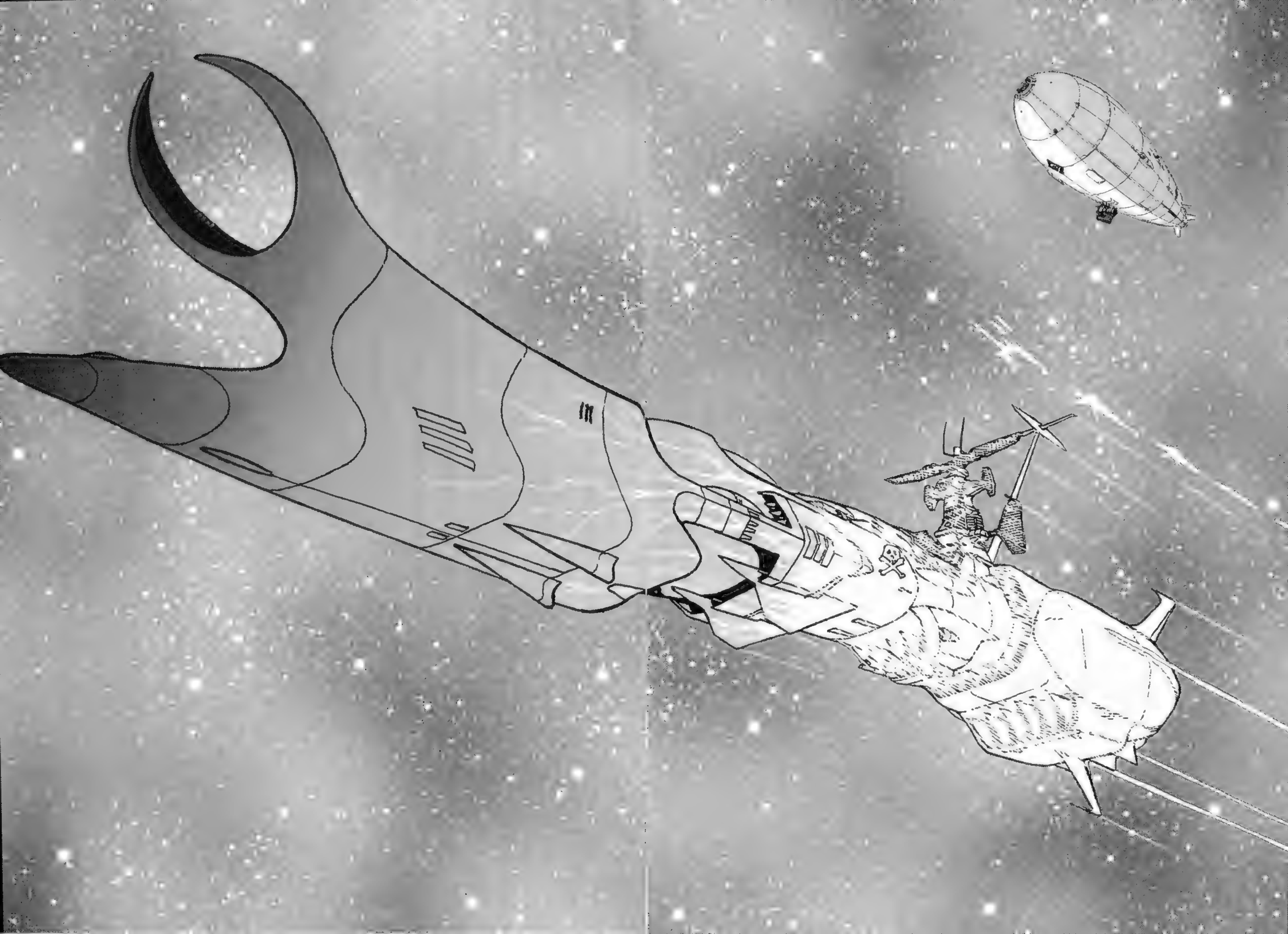
RAMP UP THE POWER! SPEED UP THE FREEZING PROCESS!!!

YOU'RE FIGHTING A GOD, MIIME ....

FWOOM!!!

AGHH!





ABSOLUTE ZERO IN THE ENGINE ROOM, AND REVERSING OUR IONIZATION EARLER HAS CREATED QUITE THE WINTER WONDERLAND IN HERE.

WHAT'S IT LIKE BACK THERE, OYAMA?

... AND OUR OWN HULL IS ACTING AS A SUPERCONDUCTOR TO THE ABSOLUTE ZERO OF SPACE OUTSIDE. OUR OWN SHIP IS KILLING US.

I SEE. THAT EXPLAINS THE DRASTIC DROP IN TEMPERATURE. WE'RE NOW LOSING HEAT AS FAST AS WE GAINED IT BEFORE ...

THAT MEANS IF ANYTHING HITS US AFTER THE FREEZING IS COMPLETE ... THE HULL WILL SHATTER.

OH, I'VE GOT EVEN BETTER NEWS. OUR DURATEKTITE ALLOY HULL IS TURNING BRITTLE. I NEVER DESIGNED IT FOR ANYTHING LIKE THIS, HARLOCK.

WE'LL LOSE ALL POWER IN 9 MINUTES AND 9 SECONDS!!!

SIR! WE'RE LOSING THE AUXILIARIES! POWER IS DOWN TO 40% AND SPEED 30%!!

WHAT ABOUT THE ESCAPE PODS?

SIR! ALL THE SHIP'S SYSTEMS ARE SHUTTING DOWN! WE'VE GOT NO POWER!!!

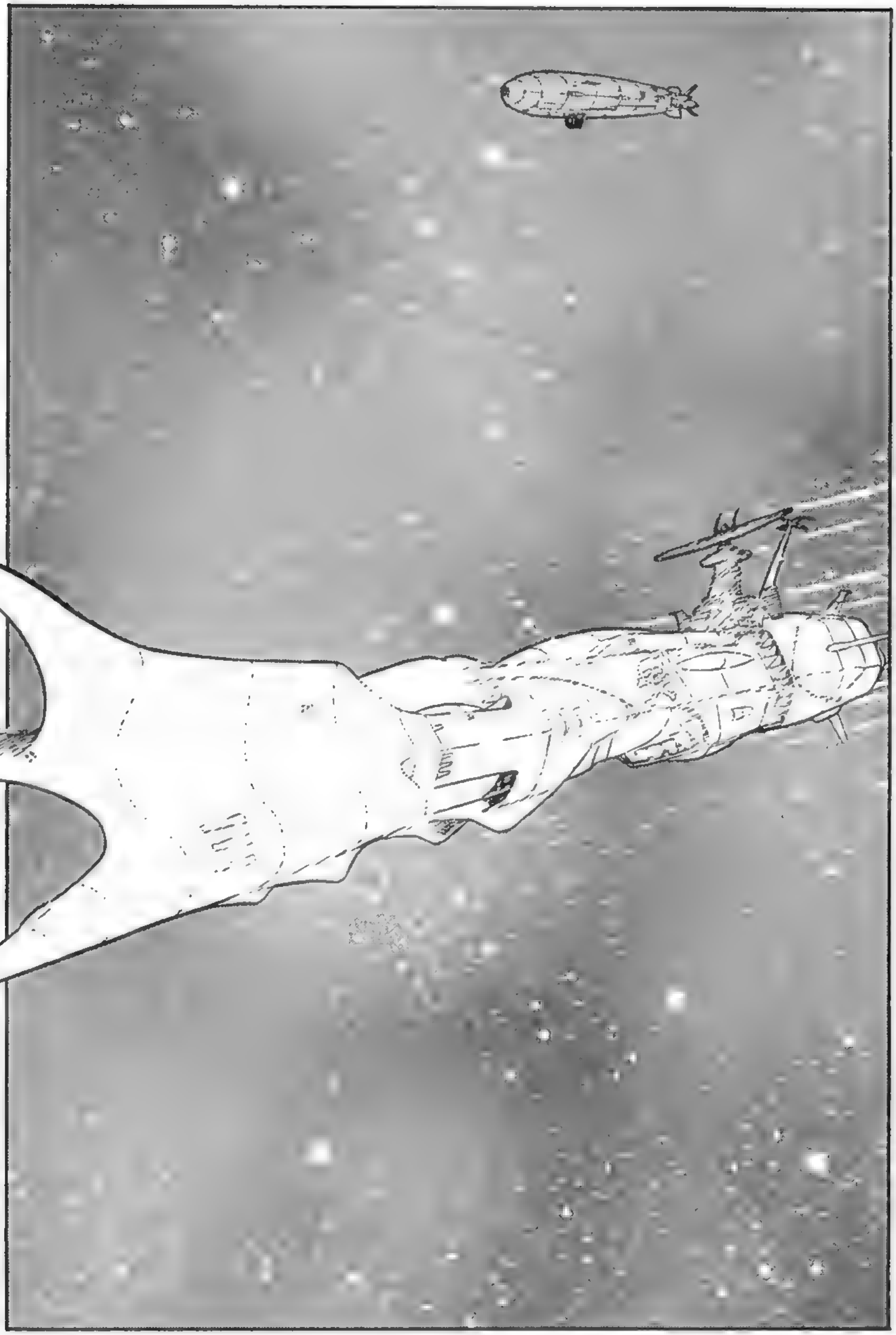
SIR, INTERNAL COMM SYSTEM HAS FAILED!

DR. OYAMA! TOSHIRO!!!

OHMIGAWD, THE HULL! THE IONIC STRAIN!!

HARLOCK, IF THE DEATH SHADOW FREEZES SOLID, THEY'RE ALL DEAD MEN OVER THERE!!!

AND WE'VE LOST THEIR SIGNAL! C'MON, LET'S GO SEE IF WE CAN HELP!!!



I'M GOING WITH YOU, HARLOCK!

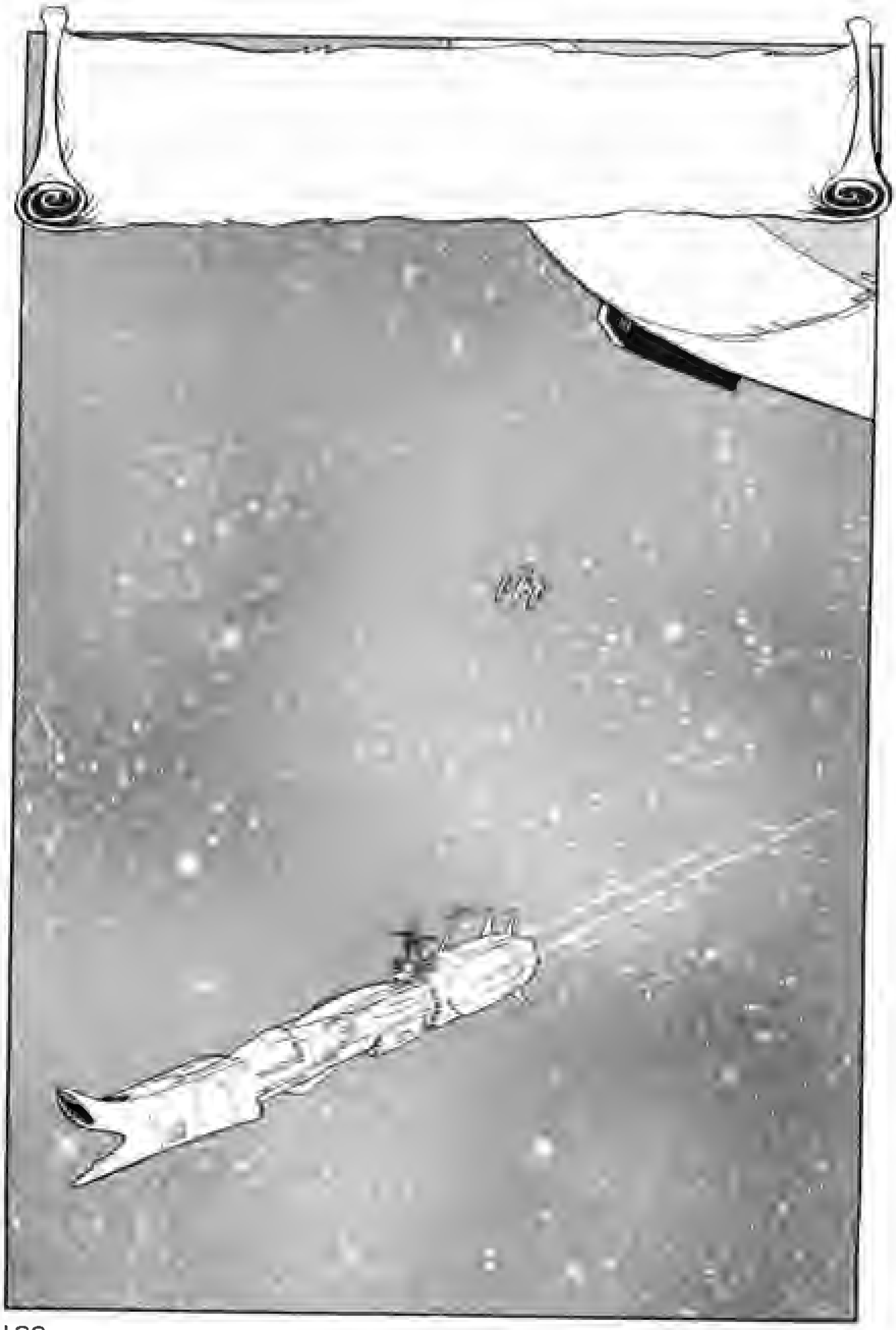
TWO IS ENOUGH. TOCHIRO, YOU STAY HERE WITH MAETEL. BE PREPARED TO BRING THE SHIP IN AS NEEDED.

GOOD.

--STAY HERE, AND LOOK AFTER MY SHIP. WE MAY HAVE TO EVACUATE THE CREW. YOUR PLACE IS HERE, TOCHIRO.

HEY, BY ALL RIGHTS I SHOULD BE THE ONE GOING! YOU MIGHT NEED ME TO--

AND AS THE TWO COSMIC ORGANS FIGHT EACH OTHER, EACH STRIVING TO DETERMINE THE FATE OF THE DOOMED DEATH SHADOW, A SMALL CRAFT LEAVES THE QUEEN EMERALDAS AND CLOSES ON THE FROZEN SHIP ....



EASY, EASY! NICE AND SLOW! THE HULL HASN'T REACHED THE MAXIMUM TENSION POINT YET, BUT LET'S NOT TAKE CHANCES!

YOU MUSTN'T WORRY, TOCHIRO. HAVE FAITH IN YOUR FATHER. IF ANYONE CAN FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS, THEN HE CAN.

DAMNIT ... I FEEL SO USELESS OVER HERE!

DID YOU KNOW SHE CUSTOMIZED HER OWN GRAVITY SABER?

MY SISTER IEMERALDAS IS A RATHER GOOD MECHANIC. SHE'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

SHE IS A BRAVE AND NOBLE WOMAN. SHE IS NOT ABANDONING THEM IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED ... SO DON'T FEEL DOWN!

ALSO, DON'T FORGET THAT BRUNHILDE IS OVER THERE. SHE MUST BE TAKING THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HAGEN'S ACTIONS.

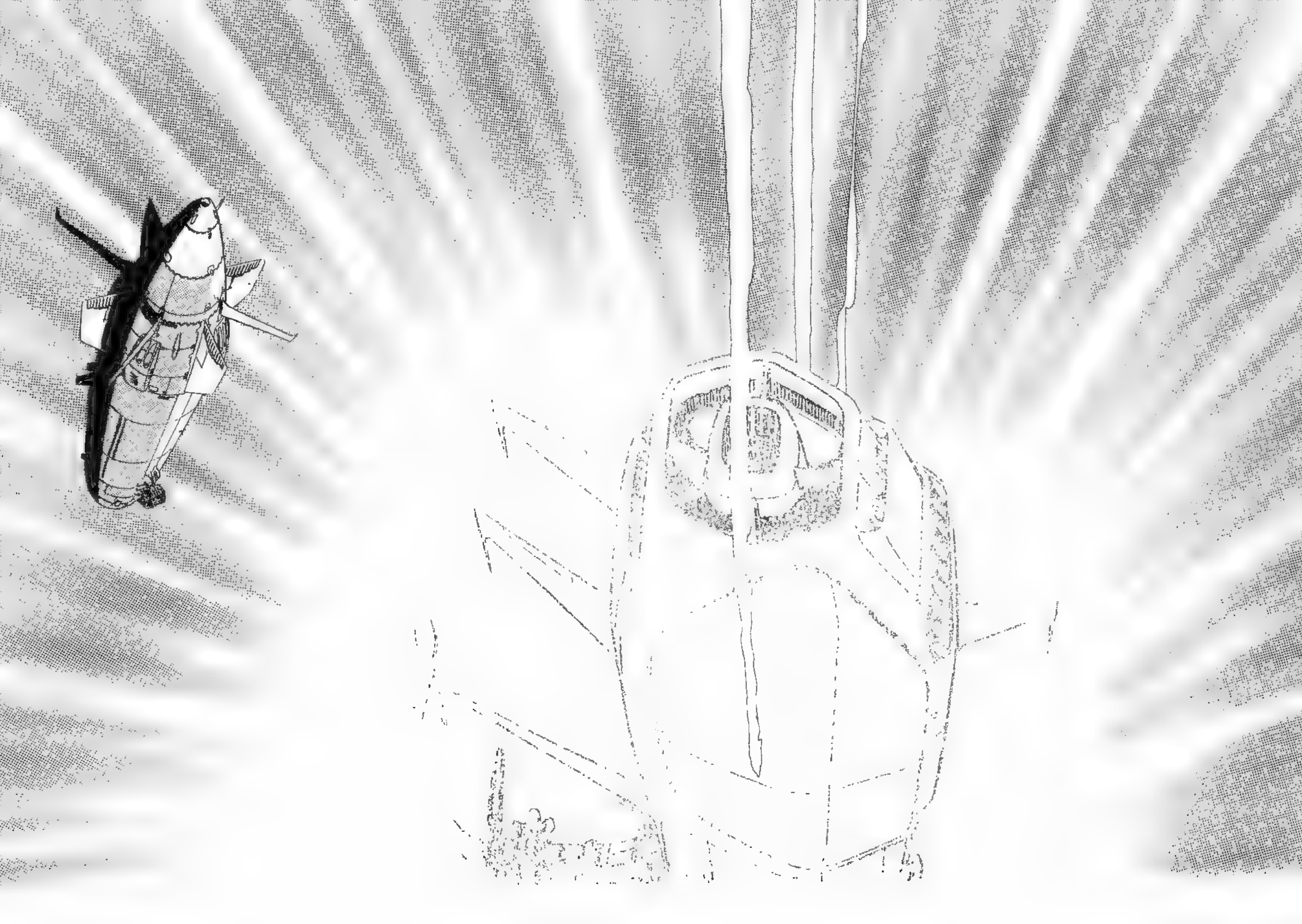
ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE ONLY WAY, BRUNHILDE?

PLEASE TAKE MY CLOTHES AND ARMOR, PHANTOM. THEY'LL ONLY HINDER ME IN THIS THING.

DAD, WE'VE GOT THE QUEEN EMERALDAS READY TO EVAC-- *BRUNHILDE!!!*

PHANTOM ... GREAT HARLOCK ... I MUST DO THIS THING IF YOUR SHIP IS TO SURVIVE ... AND YOUR SON IS TO FULFILL HIS DESTINY. IT IS ALL I CAN DO ... FOR YOU ... MY SIEGFRIED ... I MUST GO NOW.

THE TWO ORGANS FIGHT FOR CONTROL OF THIS VESSEL'S FATE. ONLY THE FIRE OF MY OWN PASSION CAN TIP THAT BALANCE.



THOUGH MANY EONS SEPARATE THE GODS OF VALHALLA FROM THE HUMANS OF EARTH, THEY BOTH HAVE ONE THING IN COMMON: THEY ARE CREATURES OF THE HEART.

AND WITHOUT BREAKING UP THE SHIP! HOW COULD THIS BE? THE SHIP SHOULD HAVE BROKEN UP AT THE SAME TIME, RIGHT?

WHAT THE HELL?!? A-A-ALL THAT ICE JUST MELTED AND SHATTERED LIKE IT WAS BOILED AWAY!!!

MRRWRR ...

PERHAPS ...

WHAT'S WRONG NOW, NANIKA? YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY! THE SHIP'S BEEN SAVED!!

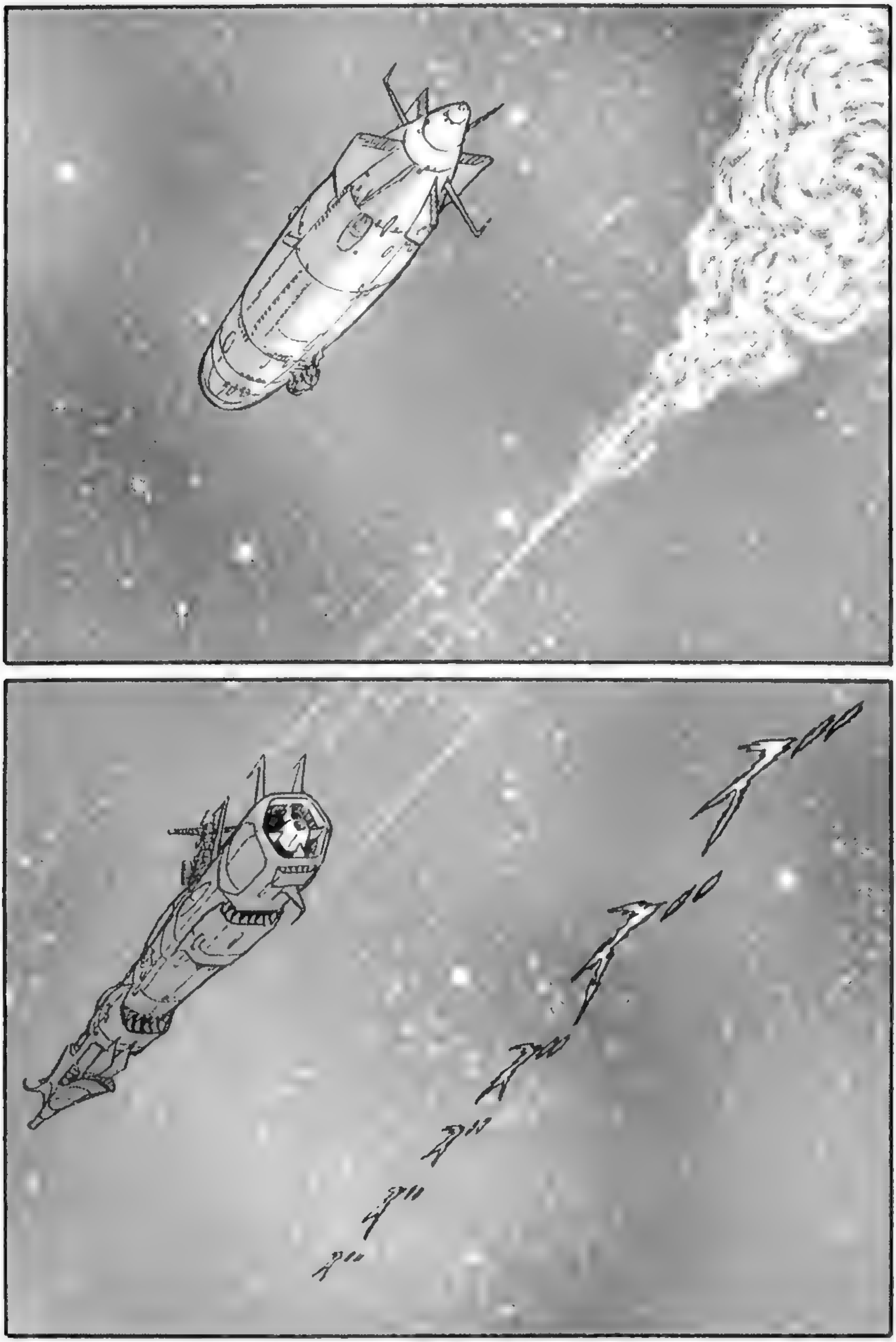
PERHAPS IT CAN SENSE SOMETHING WE DON'T. CATS CAN DO THAT ... AND THIS ONE HAS WALKED THE INFINTE PATHS OF TIME ....

THERE'S NO DOUBT OF IT, MY LORD WOTÁN. ONLY A VALKYRIE CAN GENERATE THAT KIND OF ENERGY FROM HER OWN BODY. IT MUST BE BRUNHILDE.

SHE DID WHAT?!

IT WOULD SEEM SO, MY LORD.

SO ... FREYA WAS RIGHT. SHE REALLY IS IN LOVE WITH THIS MORTAL AFTER ALL.



THAT WAS BRUNHILDE. I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. IS ANYONE LEFT IN THE STERN?

NO! IT WAS GETTING SO HOT BACK THERE THAT WE HAULED JETS AS SOON AS THE MAIN ENGINE REPAIRS WERE DONE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT JUST HAPPENED, BUT ALL THE ICE IS GONE! EVERY BIT OF IT!!!

IT JUST BOILED AWAY! WE GOT THE MAIN ENGINE FIXED, AND WE'LL HAVE FULL POWER TO ALL SYSTEMS SOON!

YES ... I KNOW.

DAMN, IT'S HOT!!!

WHY, BLESS MY SOUL, IT'S YOUNG HARLOCK! SAY, WHERE'S THAT BOY OF MINE? DIDN'T HE TAG ALONG WITH YA?

GLAD TO SEE YOU MADE IT, DR. OYAMA!

EMERALDAS! YOU TOO?! I'D-A THOUGHT YOU'D BE WITH MY BOY.

HE'S BACK ON MY SHIP WITH MY SISTER MAETEL. WE WERE GETTING READY TO EVACUATE EVERYONE, BUT THEN--

HE WAS THE ONE WHO REPAIRED IT. IF SOMETHING WERE TO GO WRONG, HE WOULD BE THE BEST PERSON TO FIX IT.

WE THOUGHT IT BEST THAT HE STAY WITH MY SHIP, JUST IN CASE.

WHAT? WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

MAKES SENSE ... HMMM ... INCREDIBLE.

SHE DIED GIVING BIRTH TO HIM. GOD, THAT SEEMS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO. YEAH, EVEN I WAS YOUNG ONCE -- RIGHT, HARLOCK?

YOU KINDA REMIND ME OF TOCHIRO'S MOTHER. THEY SAY KIDS DATE THEIR MOTHERS -- BUT HE NEVER KNEW HIS ....

YEAH, WE WERE BOTH YOUNG AND CAREFREE ONCE, WEREN'T WE? OH, WELL ... THE PAST IS THE PAST.

TOSHIRO ...

AND YOU AND YOUR SON COULD ALMOST BE TWINS, APART FROM YOUR AGE. I FIND THAT AMAZING.

IT HAPPENS NOW AND AGAIN WITH US HUMANS, WHEN THE GENES ARE RIGHT. "LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON," THEY SAY.

YOU'RE CUTE, AND YOU GOT A GOOD HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS -- JUST LIKE HIS MOTHER.

BETWEEN YOU AND ME, I'M GLAD MY BOY'S HOOKED UP WITH YA.

IT'S STILL HOT AS ALL OUT IN THE ENGINE ROOM, THOUGH, AN' IT DON'T LIKE IT'S GOING DOWN ANYTIME SOON!

SIR, THE TEMPERATURE'S GOING DOWN IN THE STERN, AND THE HEAT'S BECOMING MORE LOCALIZED.

BRUNHILDE ...

I'M GOING TO THE ENGINE ROOM! SEAL THE HATCHES BEHIND ME! NO ONE IS TO FOLLOW!!!

WHAT'S WRONG?

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN DESTINY CAN BE CRUEL. EVERYONE FEELS PAIN WHEN THEIR STRAND OF FATE IS TWISTED FROM WHAT THEY KNOW OR EXPECT. SUCH HAS NOW HAPPENED TO GREAT HARLOCK AND BRUNHILDE ... A MORTAL AND AN IMMORTAL, WHO SHARE GENUINE AFFECTION FOR EACH OTHER ... BUT WHOSE LIFE PATHS ARE NOT DESTINED TO BE JOINED ...

Siegfried

Ring 58 : A Space Age Siegfried

EVER SINCE THE TWISTED ROPE FIRST CAME INTO BEING, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A HANDFUL AMONG ITS MANY DESCENDANTS WITH THE GIFT - OR CURSE - OF SEEING THE FUTURE. SUCH A FREAK CHANCE OF EVOLUTION CAN ONLY BE ACCEPTED, NOT EXPLAINED OR EXPLOITED. YET ALMOST ALL OF THESE BECAME THE CASSANDRAS OF THEIR TIME AND PLACE, WARNING OF DANGERS IN WHICH NO ONE BELIEVED, AND THEMSELVES PERISHING ALONG WITH THE ONES THEY WOULD HELP ....

IT'S ... IT'S LIKE A COLD BREEZE IN A DRAFTY ROOM, OR SOMETHING, YOU KNOW?

HEY, MAETEL? I JUST GOT THIS FUNNY FEELING, AND I DON'T KNOW WHY.

MEOWRR ...

THAT'S WHAT YOU FEEL TOO! ISN'T IT, NANIKA?

I KNOW THIS FEELING. IT AND I ARE OLD FRIENDS ....

MAETEL?

... AND IT HAS DOGGED MY STEPS EVER SINCE. IN ALL THE WANDERINGS THAT I AND MY SISTER HAVE HAD THESE MANY YEARS, NOT ONCE HAS IT LEFT OUR SIDE .... AND ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW ...

I FIRST FELT THE TOUCH OF THIS COLD SHADE WHEN MY WORLD DIED ...

SOON. VERY SOON.

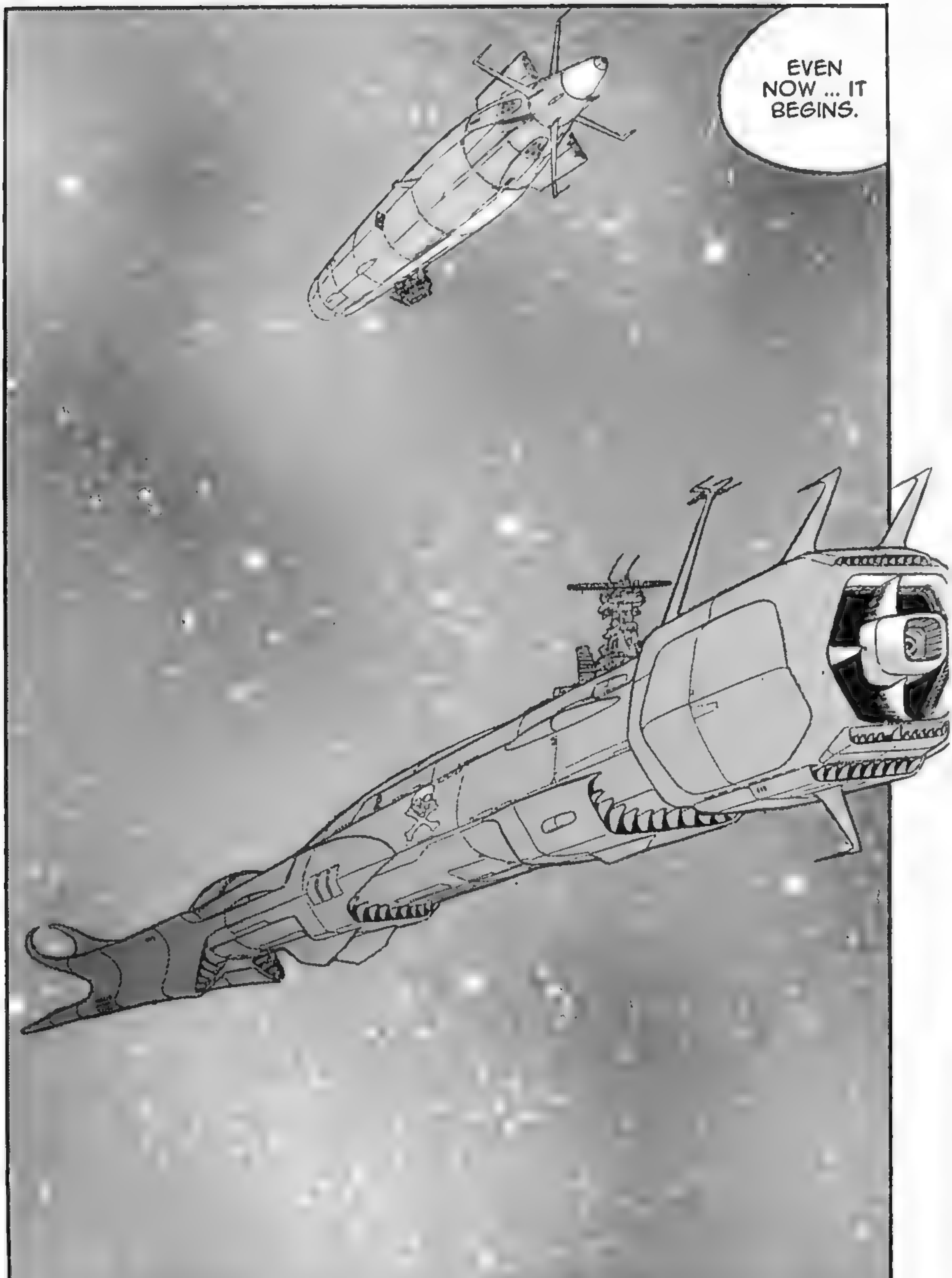
... A FLAME OF LIFE IS ABOUT TO GO OUT.

WHO, MAETEL?! TELL ME, WHO'S GONNA DIE?!?!

SOMEONE'S GONNA DIE ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW?!

I CAN FEEL HER AGONY ... SHE IS BEING CONSUMMED BY THE FLAMES OF HER OWN PASSION ... BY A LOVE THAT IS NOT DESTINED TO BE FULFILLED ... HOW TERRIBLE ... HOW SAD ....

BRUNHILDE ... YES, IT IS HER. HER FLAME BURNS TOO BRIGHLY TO BURN LONG.


EVEN NOW ... IT BEGINS.

... BUT SHE HAS LOST CONTROL, AND NOW SHE CANNOT PUT HERSELF OUT ...

BRUNHILDE USED THE INNER FIRE OF THE VALKYRIES TO SAVE THE DEATH SHADOW ...

... AND THUS, SHE BURNS ALIVE ...

... BURNING OUT HER OWN LIFE FORCE WITH THE FLAMES OF HER HIDDEN PASSION ...

... HER LOVE ...

... FOR GREAT HARLOCK!

BRUNHILDE!!!
BRUNHILDE!!!
I ... I CAN'T
GET CLOSE ...
BRUNHILDE!!!

I ... AGHHH!!!
I CAN'T STOP IT,
HARLOCK ... THE
RHINEGOLD ...
MIIME USED ... THE
RHINEGOLD ...
AAAAHHHHH!!!!

THIS IS HOW MUCH I LOVED, YOU, GREAT HARLOCK .... NEVER FORGET! I GAVE MY ALL SO YOU COULD LIVE!!!

THEY ARE THE FUTURE OF BOTH OUR KINDS! THE GODS MUST PASS ... YOUR TIME HAS COME!!!

YOU ... YOU MUST MAKE SURE ... YOUR SON AND OYAMA'S ... LIVE ... THEIR DREAM ...

... SO THAT ... SO WHEN MY BODY IS NOTHING BUT ASH ... IT WILL BE WITH THEM ... AS A SIGN ... THAT MY SPIRIT WILL ALWAYS BE WITH THEM!!! YAAAHHHH!!!!

AAAGGHH ... MY PENDANT ... TAKE IT WHEN I AM GONE ...

LET ... THE RINGS ... OF TIME ... BRING US ... TOGETHER ... AGAIN!!!

YOU WERE MY SIEGFRIED, HARLOCK!!!

YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!!!!

I HAVE TO LET HER GO ... JUST LIKE LAST TIME. I HAVE TO LET HER GO ....

SIEGFRIED ... AND HIS LOVE, BRUNHILDE .... I WONDER ... DID THE RINGS OF TIME BRING US TOGETHER BEFORE?

BRUNHILDE ...

WHAT A HORRIBLE WAY TO DIE.

BRUNHILDE'S PENDANT ... JUST LIKE SHE SAID ....

IF THOSE FOOL HUMANS HAD JUST BENT TO MY WILL! IF I HAD NOT MADE MIIME USE THE RHINEGOLD TO SAVE THE SHIP OF THE HARLOCKS!

BRUNHILDE!!!

BRUNHILDE! OH, MY GIRL, MY GIRL, WHAT HAVE I DONE?!

IF I HAD NOT TRIED TO FORCE MY WILL ON YOU ... ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING AGAINST YOUR CONSCIENCE ....

LORD WOTAN!!!

AND SO WOTAN, THE LORD OF VALHALLA, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER BRUNHILDE. HAD HE NOT TRIED TO FORCE HIS WILL ON THE UNIVERSE ... HAD HE ACCEPTED THE DECREE OF FATE, AND NOT TRIED TO CHANGE THE DESTINY OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK ... HAD HE SHOWN JUST A LITTLE INTELLIGENCE, DISCERNMENT, AND MATURITY ... BUT PERHAPS THAT WAS ASKING TOO MUCH. SUCH FOOLS AS WOTAN ALWAYS COME TO A MISERABLE END, AND MORE OFTEN THAN NOT BY THEIR OWN MAKING.

THAT'S BRUNHILDE'S PENDANT ... OH, NO ....

IT'S ALL THAT LEFT OF HER, BESIDES ASHES. SHE WANTED YOU TO HAVE IT, SON.

THE PHOENIX, BORN AGAIN FROM ITS OWN ASHES ... BUT TWO HEADS, AS IN THE HERALDIC CRESTS OF OLD GERMANY ...

IT'S A DOUBLE-HEADED PHOENIX.

SURELY YOU KNOW THIS ONE, EMERALDAS? IT'S THE "SPACE FIREBIRD."

HARLOCK, MAY I SUGGEST WE SEND BRUNHILDE'S SHIP AND HER THINGS BACK WITH THE KIDS TO THE PIRATE'S ISLE? I THINK HER SISTERS WOULD WANT THEM.

AH, YES! THE PHOENIX OF SPACE, LAST SIGHTED IN THE YEAR 2772! INTERESTING ....

A DOUBLE-HEADED PHOENIX ... OUR TWO SONS ...

FREYA CAN FLY BRUNHILDE'S SHIP BACK TO VALHALLA - ONCE SHE'S BETTER AND UP TO IT, THAT IS.

IS THAT WHAT SHE MEANT BY HER GIFT? A SYMBOL OF THE DESTINY OUR TWO SONS SHARE?

YES ... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN.

IT'S YOURS NOW.

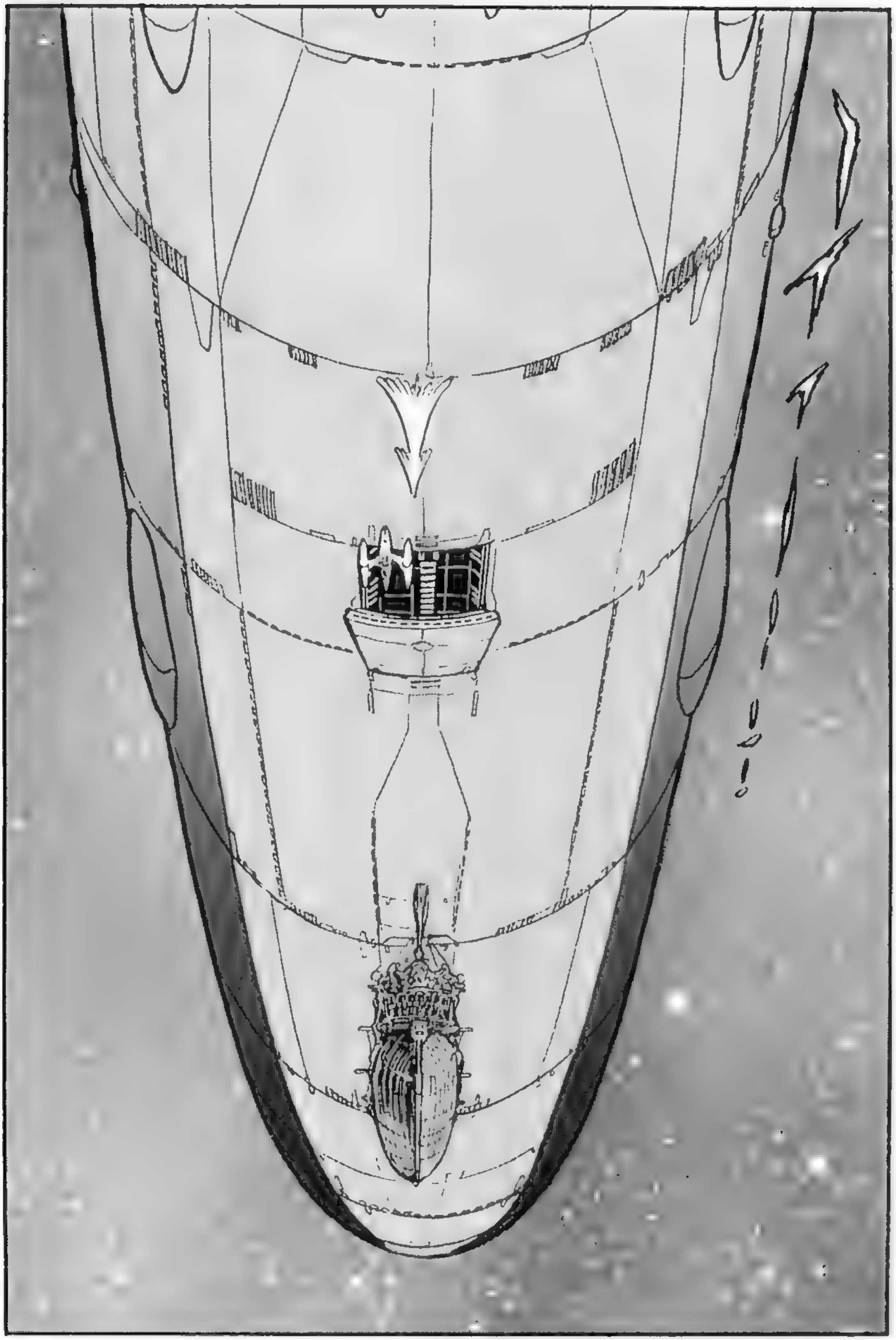
KEEP IT WELL, SON.

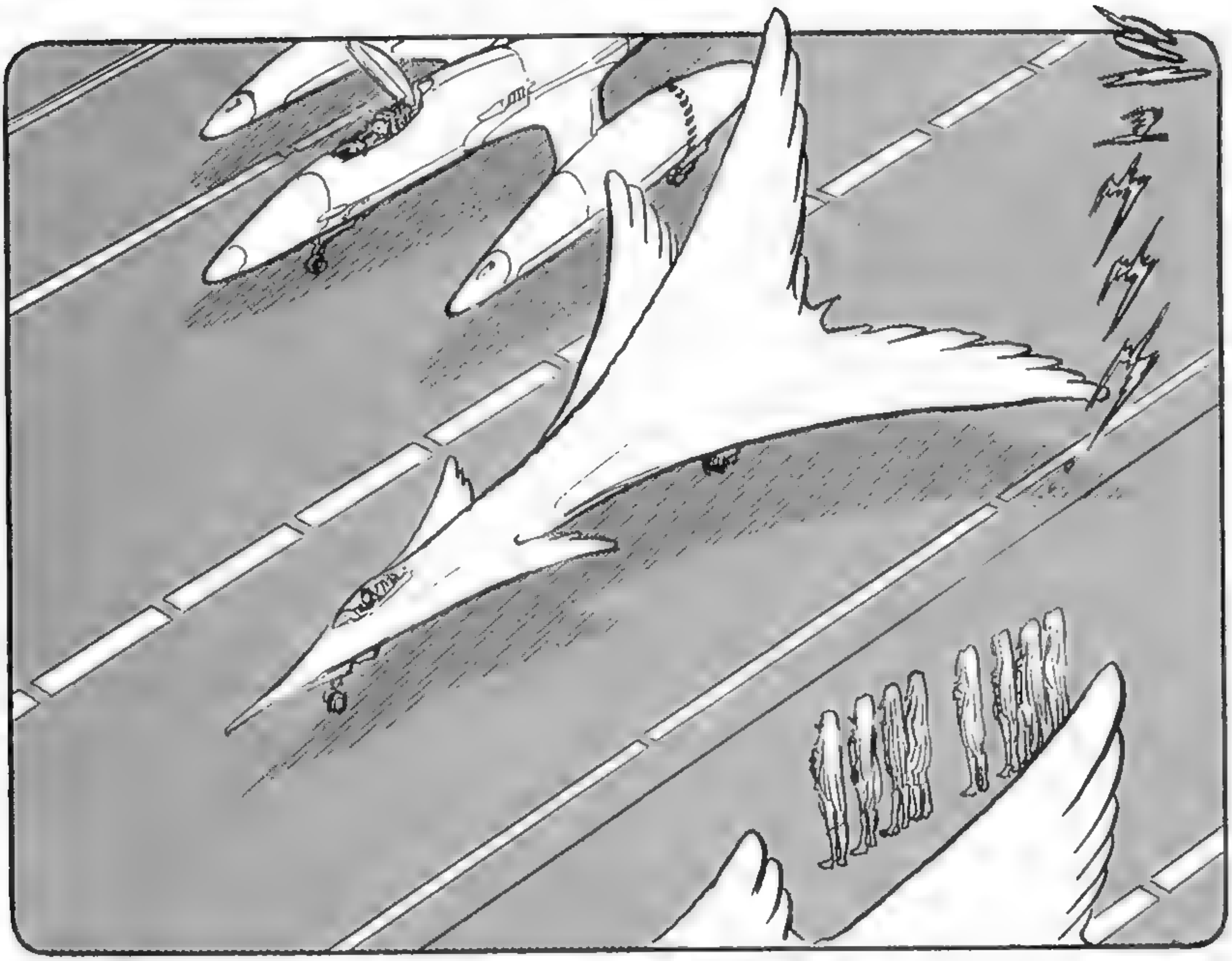
LOOK, I KNOW THE FOUR OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STAY AND HELP, BUT THIS FIGHT IS OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE ... AND YOU'VE GOT A DESTINY TO FULFILL, SON. GET GOING.

HARLOCK! BIG FLEET OF SHIPS WARPING THIS WAY! IT MUST BE THE FLEET HAGEN WAS LEADING!

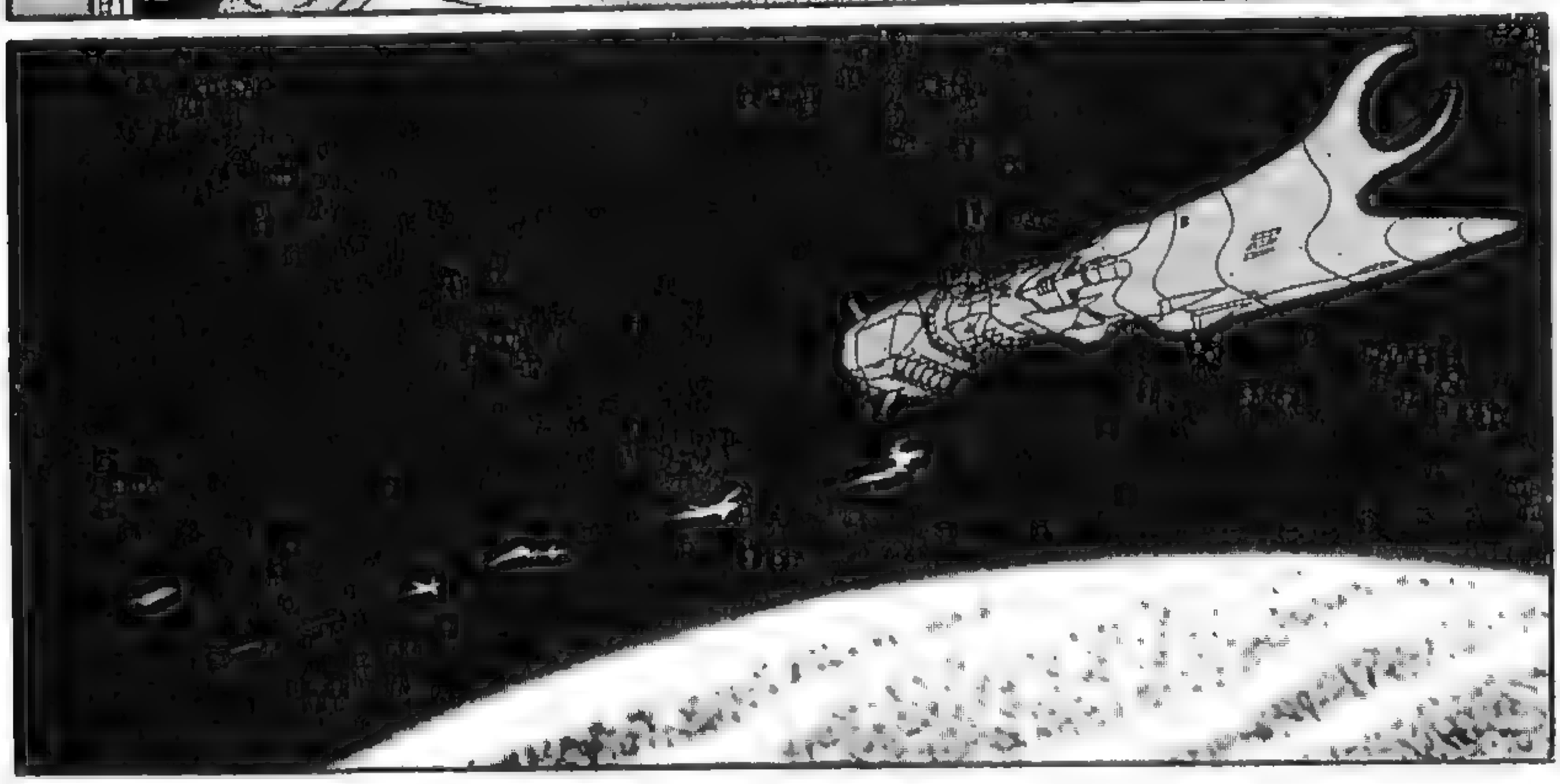
ONLY BECAUSE I HAVE TO. GOOD LUCK, DAD.

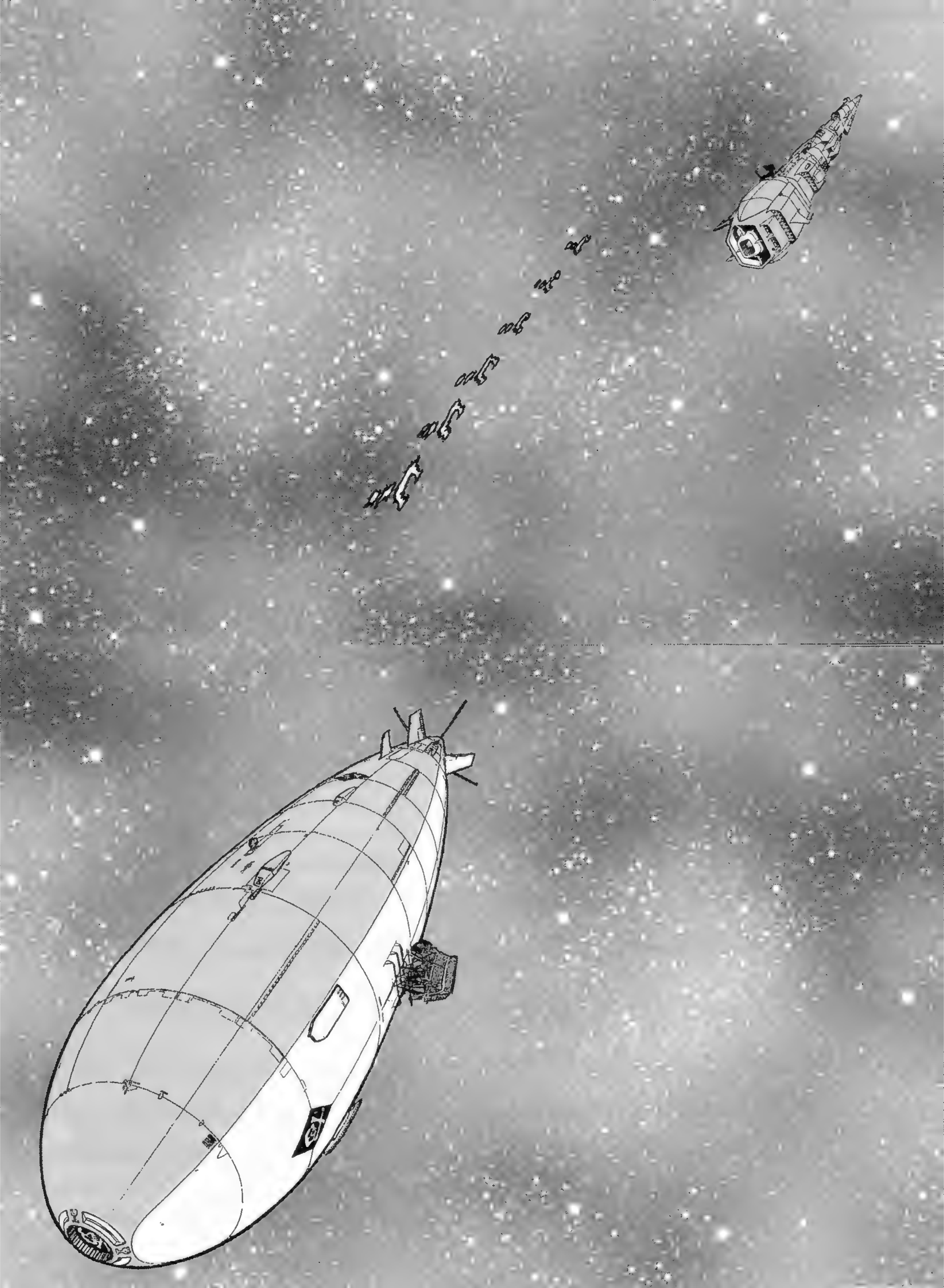
NEITHER HARLOCK NOR TOCHIRO WILL RECOGNIZE THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF BRUNHILDE'S PENDANT UNTIL THE DAY OF RAGNAROK, WHEN THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS IS AT HAND. PERHAPS IT IS FORTUNATE THEY DO NOT -- FOR IF THEY DID, THE WEIGHT OF THEIR SHARED DESTINY MIGHT PROVE TO BE EVEN HARDER TO BEAR ....





YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, HARLOCK! IF WE DON'T STOP THAT METANOID INVASION FLEET HAGEN INVITED, THEN WHO WILL?
AND NOW TO BUSINESS.





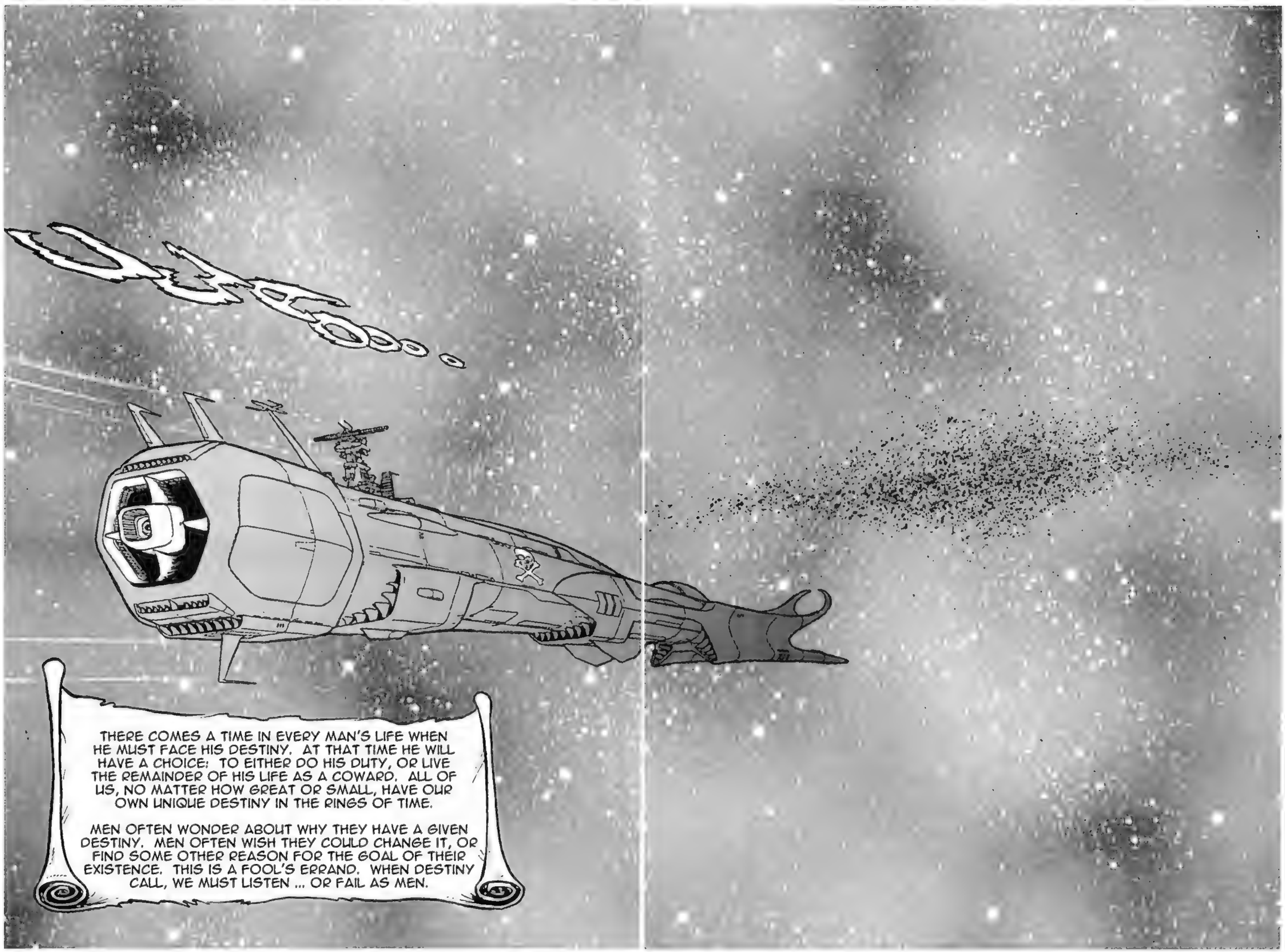
HAGEN'S FLEET ... IT'S THE METANOIDS! HOW MANY?

AND HERE'S WHY! THEY'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR AN ALIEN FLEET THAT'S ALL PHANTASMA CRUISERS!!!

THEY'RE HEADING OUT INTO DEEP SPACE AT TOP SPEED ... I THINK THEY'LL WARP SOON.

THEY DON'T STAND A CHANCE!!!!

O-ON-ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SHIPS ....


THERE COMES A TIME IN EVERY MAN'S LIFE WHEN HE MUST FACE HIS DESTINY. AT THAT TIME HE WILL HAVE A CHOICE: TO EITHER DO HIS DUTY, OR LIVE THE REMAINDER OF HIS LIFE AS A COWARD. ALL OF US, NO MATTER HOW GREAT OR SMALL, HAVE OUR OWN UNIQUE DESTINY IN THE RINGS OF TIME.
MEN OFTEN WONDER ABOUT WHY THEY HAVE A GIVEN DESTINY. MEN OFTEN WISH THEY COULD CHANGE IT, OR FIND SOME OTHER REASON FOR THE GOAL OF THEIR EXISTENCE. THIS IS A FOOL'S ERRAND. WHEN DESTINY CALL, WE MUST LISTEN ... OR FAIL AS MEN.

FATE SHAPES THE RINGS OF TIME. DESTINY GUIDES THOSE WHO DWELL WITHIN. AS LONG AS THERE IS LIFE IN THEIR UNIVERSE, IT WILL ALWAYS BE THE DUTY OF THOSE WITHIN TO HEED THE CALL OF DESTINY ... OR NEVER ACHIEVE THE FULL GREATNESS OF THEIR BEING.

IT IS SAID THAT THOSE WHO RIDICULE THE YOUNG - YOUNG WHO ARE AWARE OF THEIR DESTINY AND ALWAYS STRIVE TO ACHIEVE IT - ARE DOOMED TO DIE AN ATROCIOUS DEATH. WOTAN MAY SCOFF AT SUCH A SAYING, BUT HE MAY LIVE TO RUE THE DAY ....

WHOA!!!

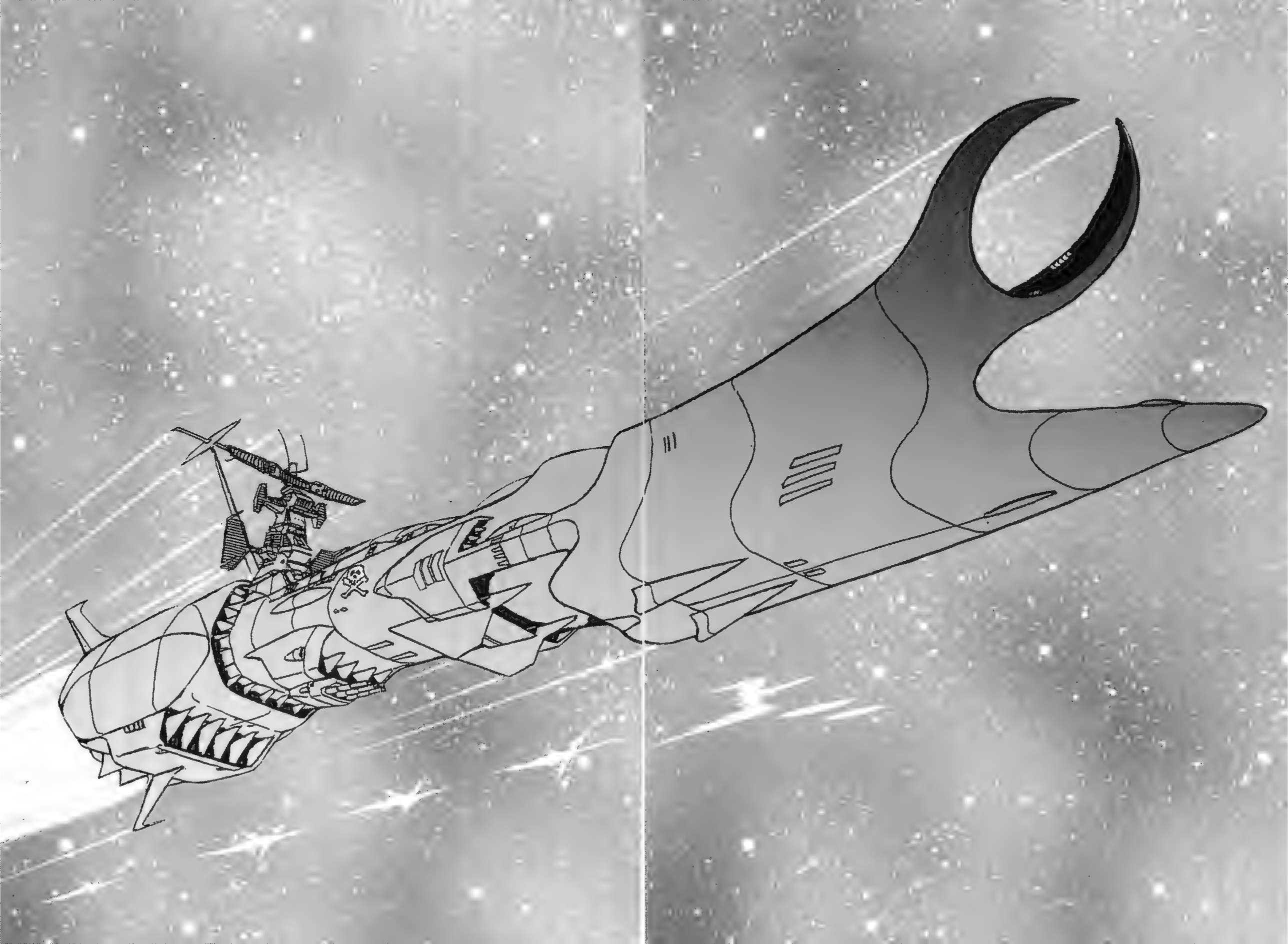
HEY! THE PENDANT! BRUNHILDE'S PENDANT IS CHANGING!!!

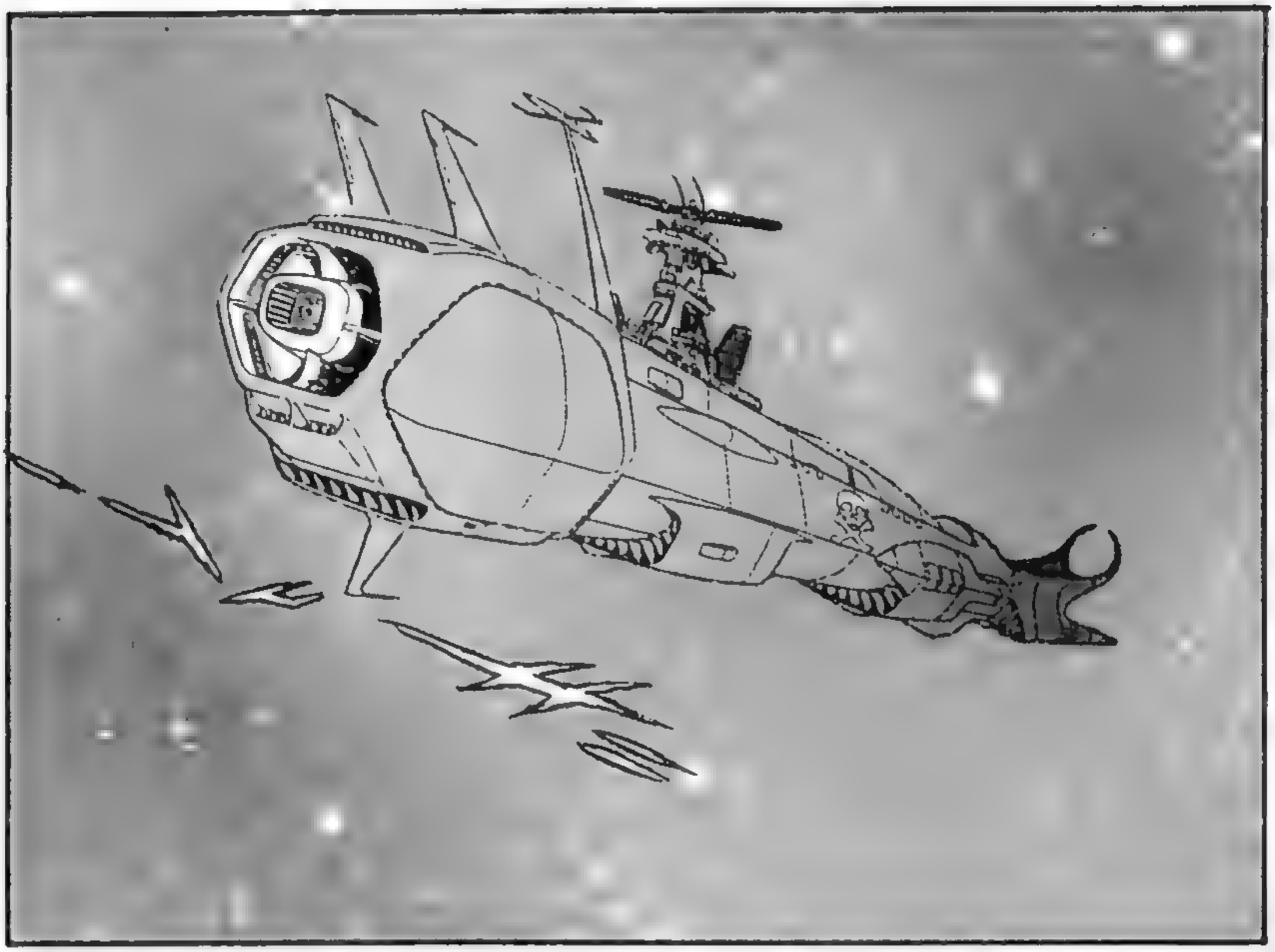
MIIME ALSO SORROWS AT THE DEATH OF BRUNHILDE, AND THE UNINTENDED PART SHE PLAYED IN IT ... YET SHE IS ALSO WISE ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT DYING FOR GREAT HARLOCK WAS BRUNHILDE'S DESTINY. HERS WAS NOT THE BLAME ... YET SHE FEELS THE PAIN AND SORROW OF HER PART NONETHELESS. IT IS YET THE LATEST OF THE SORROWS IN HER LONG LIFE ... AND NOW, AS SHE WAITS FOR THE RING OF TIME TO BRING HER TO THE FUTURE, AND THE TIME OF CAPTAIN HARLOCK AND THE ARCADIA, SHE KNOWS SHE WILL SPEND THAT TIME ALONE FROM HER FRIENDS AND OTHER COMPANIONS ... ALONE ON PLANET RHINE, WITH NONE SAVE THE RHINEMAIDENS TO LESSEN HER SOLITARY VIGIL ....

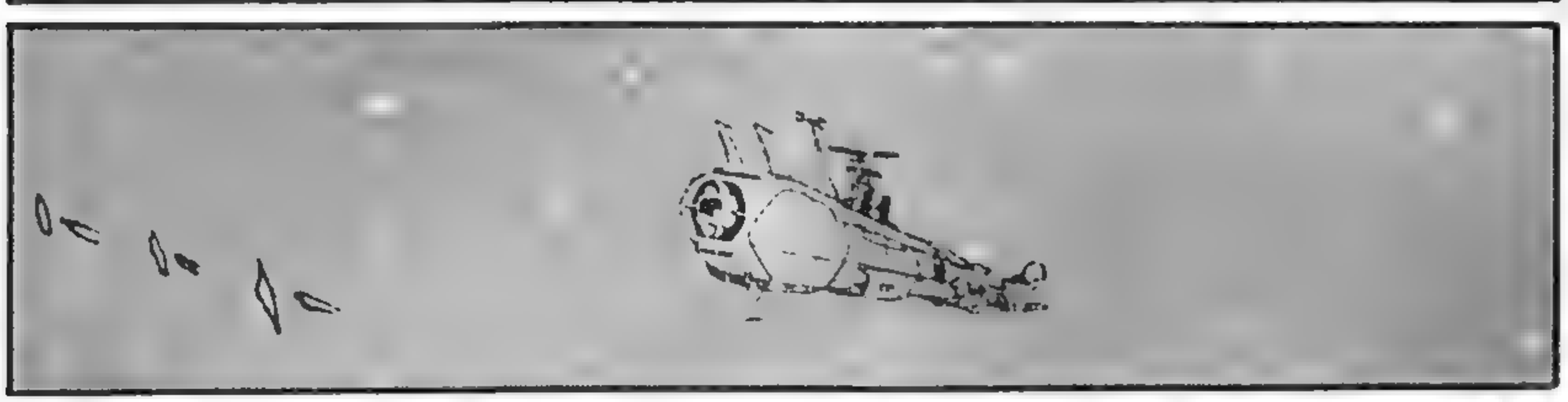
IT'S OUR HERALD, TOCHIRO! THE SAME AS OUR FATHERS!

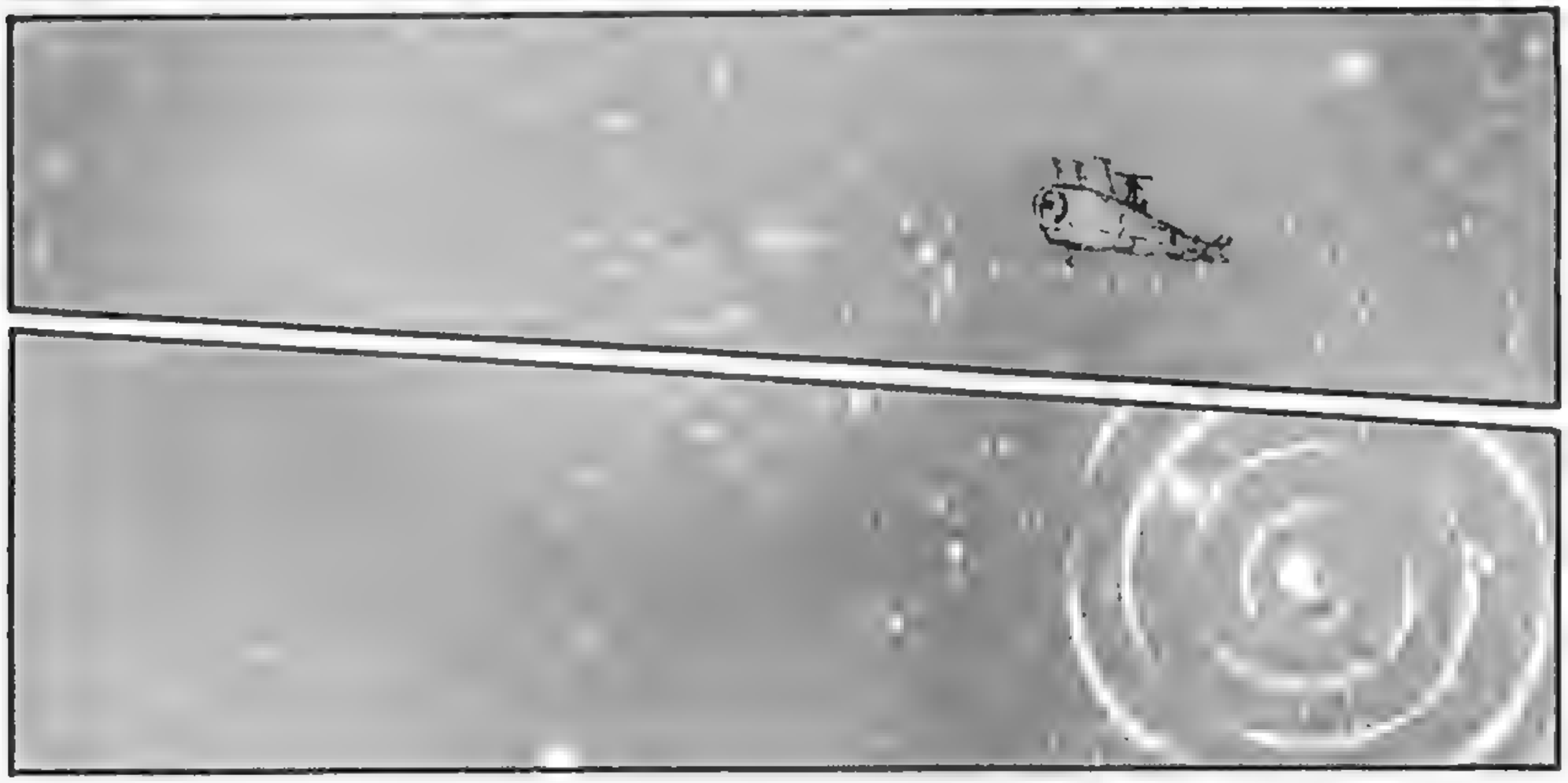
LOOK! IT'S DONE!! AND LOOK WHAT IT TURNED INTO!!!

THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES!









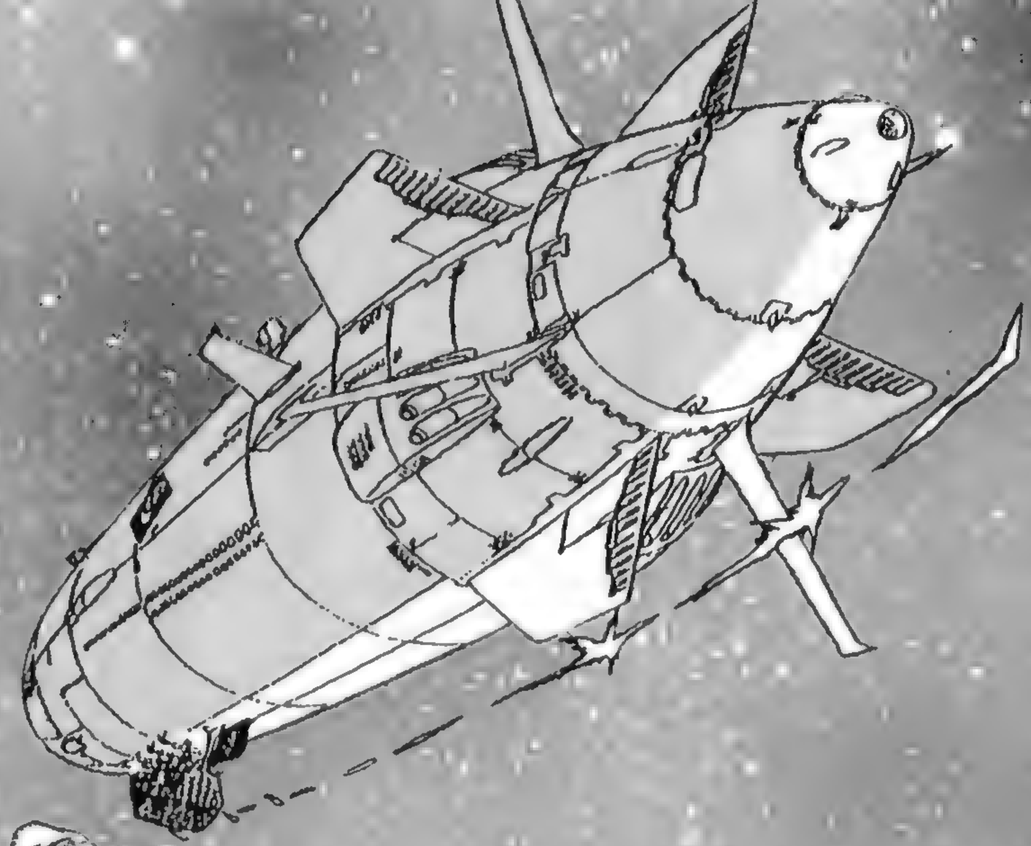
SHOULDN'T WE GO TO THE PLANET RHINE AND PICK UP MIIME FOR HIM? IT'S THE LEAST WE COULD DO.

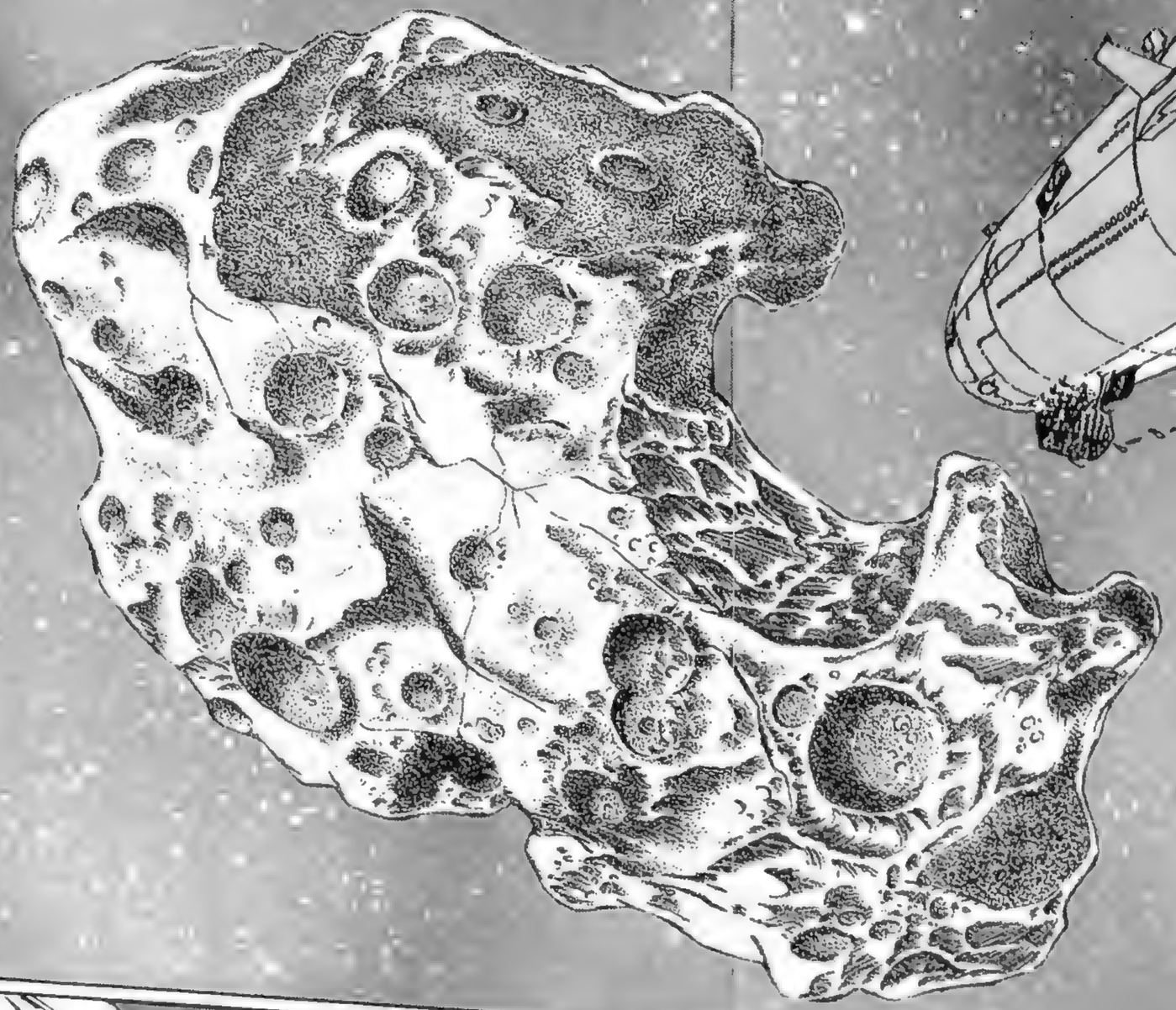
I DON'T RELISH THE IDEA OF RUNNING FROM A BATTLE -- ANY BATTLE -- BUT THIS FIGHT IS PART OF GREAT HARLOCK'S DESTINY, AND NOT MINE.

SHE TOLD THE QUEEN EMERALDAS IT'S NOT YET HER TIME TO LEAVE. SOMETHING ABOUT FUTURE DESTINY.

NO.

I'M BEGINNING TO GET SICK OF THOSE TWO WORDS ... FATE AND DESTINY.





PROBABLY HER FATHER, TOO. I WONDER IF HE FEELS ANY GUILT AT HELPING TO BRING ABOUT THE DEATH OF HIS OWN DAUGHTER.
I DON'T THINK THERE'LL BE ANY NEED TO TELL BRUNHILDE'S SISTERS ABOUT HER DEATH. I THINK THEY ALREADY KNOW ... AND I THINK FREYA DOES, TOO.

THE DEATH SHADOW IS CLOSING ON THE METANOID FLEET. WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MY LORD? LORD WOTAN?!

MY LORD WOTAN, PLEASE ... YOU'RE FRIGHTENING US ... PLEASE, MY LORD ... !

IF GREAT HARLOCK HAD JUST *DIED*, LIKE HE WAS *SUPPOSED* TO, MY GIRL WOULD STILL BE ALIVE!! OH, *BRUNHILDE!!!*

NO ... IT'S NOT MY FAULT ... IT'S THOS DAMN MONKEYS! IF THEY HADN'T ME DO IT ...

WOTAN'S ANGUISH OVER THE LOSS OF HIS DAUGHTER BRUNHILDE HAS BLINDED HIM TO OTHER BUSINESS. HE IS COMPLETELY WRAPPED UP IN HIS GRIEF, NO LONGER AWARE OF HIS SURROUNDINGS ... AND THUS DOES NOT HEAR THE WORD THAT GREAT HARLOCK AND THE DEATH SHADOW ARE CLOSING WITH THE PHANTASMA CRUISERS OF THE METANOID FLEET. THUS IS THE STAGE SET FOR AN EPIC SHOWDOWN BETWEEN THE WILL OF WOTAN AND THE DESTINIES OF FOUR HUMANS - A SPACE PIRATE AND HIS BEST FRIEND, AND THE SONS THAT WILL RISE UP TO SUCCEED THEM ....

"IT'S NOT JUST OUR BLOODLINES WE INHERIT," YOUNG HARLOCK THOUGHT TO HIMSELF, AS THE PIRATE'S ISLE ROCKETED AWAY FROM THE RIM. "WE ALSO INHERIT THE STUFF THAT MAKES THEM WHO THEY ARE, IF WE ARE WISE ENOUGH TO CULTIVATE IT AND LET IT GROW." TRUE INDEED! ANY WHO WOULD DENY THEIR HERITAGE IS A FOOL. THOSE WHO DENY BOTH HERITAGE AND BLOOD INVITE THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION. ONLY THE DRIVE OF THE GREAT, AS PASSED ON THROUGH THEIR CHILDREN, HAS LED AND KEPT MAN IN THE ETERNAL SEA OF STARS. SHOULD THAT DRIVE EVER BE LOST, THEN MANKIND TOO WILL BE LOST ....

MY LORD? THE DEATH SHADOW IS ON ITS WAY TO INTERCEPT THE METANOID FLEET, AS WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU.

DEEP BREATH

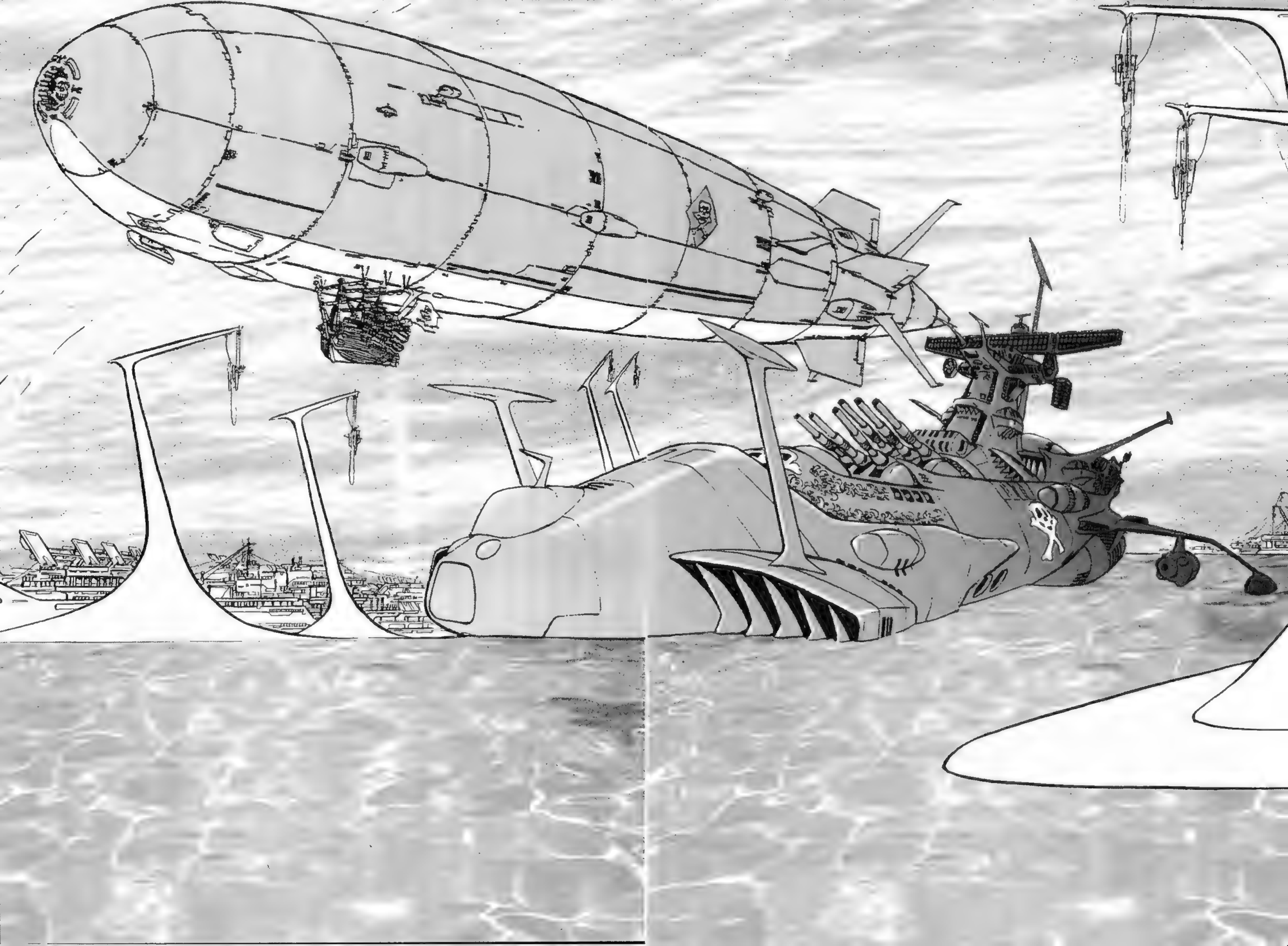
I MUST REGAIN CONTROL ... I MUST ... WHERE ARE THE DEATH SHADOW AND THE PIRATE'S ISLE RIGHT NOW? ANSWER ME!!

THE ANCIENT SHIP HAS DOCKED WITH THE PIRATE'S ISLE ASTEROID. THAT IS NOW MOVING AT HIGH SPEED AWAY FROM THE GALACTIC RIM.

YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT FOLLOWING US RIGHT NOW! I'VE PROGRAMMED THE PIRATES' ISLE SO IT WON'T LET EITHER OF YOUR SHIPS OUT!! IT WON'T FOLLOW US, EITHER!!!

SON! TOCHIRO!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ABOARD THE DEATH SHADOW 2?!

BUT DAD, WHY?!



YOURS IS TO LIVE FREE, AND BUILD THAT ARCADIA OF YOURS!

THIS IS OUR FIGHT, YOUNG OYAMA -- NOT YOURS. YOU AND MY SON HAVE A FUTURE TO LIVE FOR. THAT'S OUR DESTINY OUT THERE. UNDERSTAND?

MAKE THAT ARCADIA OF YOURS THE MOST POWERFUL VESSEL EVER TO SAIL THE SEA OF STARS!

LEARN WHAT YOU CAN FROM OUR GIFT OF THE SECOND DEATH SHADOW, AND BY ALL MEANS IMPROVE ON IT AS ONLY YOU TWO CAN!

DAD ... WE'LL DO IT, DAD!

... THE STEALTH SCREEN ... THE SUPER SHOCK CANNON ... AND ALL THE REST! THEY'RE ALL YOURS NOW!!

BOY ... I MEAN, TOCHIRO! YOU'LL HAVE TO FINISH ALL THOSE LITTLE PROJECTS THAT I STARTED BUT NEVER GOT DONE!

REMEMBER THAT! FOLLOW THAT CREED, AND LIVE YOUR LIVES WITHOUT FEAR OR SHAME, HOWEVER THEY MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE!!!

NEVER FORGET THE TRUE MEANING OF THE HERALD OF BOTH OUR FAMILIES: THE SKULL AND CROSSBONES! THE ETERNAL SYMBOL OF FREE MEN LIVING THEIR LIVES AS THEY SEE FIT, WITH NO BOUNDS OR BONDS ON THEM!!!

THERE'S ALWAYS A FIGHT YOU HAVE TO FACE WITHOUT EITHER FRIENDS OR ALLIES, SON. THIS IS OURS.

BUT WE'RE FIGHITNG TO WIN, SEE?! AND IF I COME BACK AND FIND YOU'VE BUILT THAT SHIP TOO BIG, TOCHIRO, I'LL SKIN YOU ALIVE!

UNTIL THE RINGS OF TIME BRING US TOGETHER AGAIN!!!

END
TRANSMISSION

DID YOU SAY THEY *ALL* JUST DISAPPEARED?! THE METANOID FLEET -- THE DEATH SHADOW? ALL OF THEM?!!

Y-YES, MY LORD!

COULD IT HAVE BEEN--

WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL BOTH OF THEM ARE GROWN MEN THAT YOUNG HARLOCK AND TOCHIRO OYAMA WILL FULLY GRASP AND APPRECIATE THE SACRIFICE MADE BY BRUNHILDE AND BY THEIR FATHERS, GREAT HARLOCK AND DR. TOSHIRO OYAMA. THE FIRE FROM THAT DISTANT EXPLOSION FLARED IN THE SKY LIKE A NEWBORN SUN ... BUT IT WAS SO FAR FROM EARTH THAT IT WOULD TAKE 99.9 BILLION YEARS TO REACH IT.

LONG AGO, IN THE ANCIENT TIME, ANOTHER SUCH STAR FLARED IN EARTH'S NIGHTTIME SKY. TOGETHER WITH THE DEEDS OF MEN, IT INSPIRED THE LEGEND OF SIEGFRIED AND BRUNHILDE ... A LEGEND THAT WAS GIVEN FORM AND SUBSTANCE, AND MADE REALITY FOR A TIME....

Siegfried

Der Ring des Nibelungen: Siegfried was first published as an Internet comic on the Shinchosa web site from 03/1998 to 06/1999, and as a three-volume manga series by Shinchosa Publishing in 12/1999.

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